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FBIS-SOV-94-163 *23 August 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Aug 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hardliners Oppose Joint-U.S. Military Exercises *[INTERFAX]* 2
Stepashin, Germany's Schmidbauer Conclude Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Status of Seized Plutonium Unclear *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Munich Plutonium 'No Relation to Russia' *[INTERFAX]* 3
Lukin Views Future Relations With Germany *[INTERFAX]* 3
Serbian Premier Arrives in Moscow *[Moscow TV]* 3
Holds Trade Cooperation Talks *[INTERFAX]* 3
Panov: Upcoming Jiang Visit an 'Important' Event *[INTERFAX]* 4
Progress Expected on Ukraine Bomber Redeployment *[INTERFAX]* 5
Rogozin Visits Crimea, Proposes Compatriot Status Edict *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Aug]* 5
Work Under Way To Demarcate Border with Estonia *[Helskinki Radio]* 5
Lebed Rejects Offer To Head Forces in Tajikistan *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Tajik Appointment Speculated *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Yeltsin Appoints Ambassador to Iraq *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Propriety of Reception for Freeh Questioned *[IZVESTIYA 22 Aug]* 6
ITAR-TASS Kills Yeltsin Greeting to Deng 8

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social Issues

Grachev, Rybkin Vacationing Close To Yeltsin *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Aug]* 9
Yeltsin Congratulates Construction Workers *[Radio Rossii]* 9
Yeltsin Issues Edict on 'Children of Russia' Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Grain Union Set Up in Opposition to Agrarian Lobby *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Aug]* 9
FITUR Aide Says Government Talks 'Fruitful' *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 20 Aug]* 10
High-Level Foreign Intelligence Official Dies *[ITAR-TASS]* 11

Economic Issues

Soskovets Chairs Discussion of Accounting *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Aug]* 11
Soskovets, World Bank Officials Discuss Payment Crisis *[INTERFAX]* 11
Shokhin Rejects Idea of Writing Off Debt *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Aug]* 12
Presidential Aide on Proposed Economic Measures *[INTERFAX]* 12
Economics Expert on Increasing Oil Exports *[INTERFAX]* 13
Supply Problems Slow Harvesting Work *[INTERFAX]* 14
Upgraded Tax System Designed to Restrain Inflation *[SEGODNYA 28 Aug]* 14
Widespread Resistance Seen To 'Investment Revolution' *[IZVESTIYA 20 Aug]* 14
Central Bank Spokesmen Deny Reports on Bankers' Arrests *[SEGODNYA 20 Aug]* 15
Further Cut Seen in State's Economic Role *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Aug]* 15
Thousands Seek To Buy Shares as MMM Offices Reopen *[ITAR-TASS]* 16

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Planned Space Launches Reported *[Moscow TV]* 16
Security System 'Precludes' Significant Nuclear Theft *[INTERFAX]* 16
Modified Tupolev Tu-160 Bomber To Launch Satellites *[Moscow TV]* 17
Missile Destruction Process Outlined *[IZVESTIYA 20 Aug]* 17

Contract Hire Helping To Bolster Civil Defense Forces *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Aug]* 18
Border Troops Maritime Section Titles Changed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Aug]* 19
State Defense Order Reduced Fivefold Since 1991 *[PRAVDA 23 Aug]* 19
Criticisms Over Arms Production Cuts Rebutted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Aug]* 20

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Yaroslavl *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Promises 'Support' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Aug]* 21
Khasbulatov in 'Confident Advance' Toward Power *[IZVESTIYA 23 Aug]* 21
Denies Coveting Chechen Presidency *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Says Moscow Plans 'Puppet Regime' *[INTERFAX]* 22
Chechnya Accuses Russia of 'Preparing for Occupation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Official Fears Russian 'Invasion' *[Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD 19 Aug]* 23
Ossetia, Ingushetia Protest Attempt To Ban Flights *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Chechnya's Nadterechnyy District Remains Calm *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Dudayev Reinforces Groznyy City Defenses *[Moscow TV]* 24
Opposition Rally To Demand Dudayev Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 25
Chechen Leadership Urges Caucasian Peoples To Unite *[INTERFAX]* 25
Opposition Reports Outbreak of Cholera *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Militia To Help Prevent Pilfering of Potato Crop *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 20 Aug]* 26
Moscow Detectives' Chief on Crime Situation *[TRUD 20 Aug]* 26
'Careless Handling' Caused Moscow Missile Accident *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Aug]* 28
Major Renovation, Expansion of Nakhodka Port Begins *[Vladivostok Radio]* 28
Army Cuts Compound Maritime Kray Industry's Problems *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Aug]* 28
Kuban Farm Lobby Hits 'Half-Wit' Reformers *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 20 Aug]* 29
Kazan Seeks Access to Sea, Signs Accord with Kaliningrad *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Aug]* 29
Perm Oblast Pulls Out of Social Agreement Treaty *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Aug]* 30
Weapons Cache Seized at Smolensk Oblast Customs Post *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Tatarstan Prime Minister on Cooperation with LUKoil *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Aug]* 30

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Preparations for Joint U.S. Military Exercises *[UNIAN]* 32
Ukraine To Participate in NATO Exercises *[Kiev TV]* 32
Economic Ties With Poland To Develop 'Stage by Stage' *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 19 Aug]* 32

National Affairs

President Issues Edict on Currency Regulation *[Kiev International]* 32
Deputy Interior Ministers Dismissed *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 19 Aug]* 33
Kuchma Appoints New Ministers *[Kiev TV]* 33
Kuchma Rebuffs Ostankino Confederation Idea *[Kiev Radio]* 33

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Spokesman: Lukashenka 'Feels Well', Resumes Work *[INTERFAX]* 34
Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Economy Appointed *[Minsk Radio]* 34
Further on Top Army Commander Replacements *[ZVYAZDA 17 Aug]* 34
Defense Minister Announces Changes in Command *[VO SLAVU RODINY 16 Aug]* 34

Moldova

President Calls For New Education, Language Law *[BASAPRESS]* 35
Dniester Supreme Soviet Plans New Banknotes *[BASAPRESS]* 35
Dniester Authorities Vie for Disputed Village *[BASAPRESS]* 35

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Outcome of Ter-Petrosyan's U.S. Trip Viewed *[PRAVDA 23 Aug]* 36
Defense Minister on Prospects for Peace *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 36
Communist Party Congress Results Summed Up *[Yerevan Radio]* 36

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Ties With Russia, Other Topics *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Aug]* 37
Iran Rebuffs Azeri Allegations of Arms to Armenia *[IRNA]* 39
Karabakh Front Afghans Being Sent to Chechnya *[Yerevan Radio]* 39
Press Production Halted Due to Indebtedness *[TURAN]* 39

Georgia

'Alarming' Refugee Situation on Abkhaz Border *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Abkhazia Reacts to Russian Stand on Tatar Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Shevardnadze Weekly Interview *[Tbilisi Radio]* 40

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Meri Signs Estonian-Language Text of Agreements *[BNS]* 43
Parties Urge Parliament To Denounce Russian Agreements *[BNS]* 43
Bill To Annul Agreements Submitted *[BNS]* 43

Latvia

Premier Comments on U.S. Support for Dismantling Skrunda *[DIENA 13 Aug]* 44
Former OMON Members To Be Charged *[ITAR-TASS]* 44

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Aug

LD2308053694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0524 GMT 23 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 23 ITAR-TASS—Many newspapers published in Moscow today highlight celebrations of the third anniversary of the hardliner coup defeat in August 1991 but note that the festivities were much more restrained this year in comparison with the previous celebrations.

"Last year, President Boris Yeltsin held a special press conference to discuss the effects of the victory of democratic over the putschists, but this year he did not find it necessary to interrupt his vacation on the black-sea coast," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA pointed out. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA explains the fact that the country's leaders "preferred to stand on the sidelines of the celebrations" by the bust of the trial of the coup plotters and the ensuing acquittal of General Varennikov.

It is reported that few people attended mass meetings devoted to the anniversary. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stresses that "opposition members were more numerous at such gatherings than supporters of the present government".

The government newspaper "ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA" gives much prominence to the president's decree on Flag Day of the Russian Federation. It recalls that Russia's own traditional tricolor was hoisted again three years ago. The newspaper also gives front- page coverage to a conference "Lessons of August 1991" which was held in Moscow last Saturday. It carries a quotation from President Boris Yeltsin's message of greetings to participants in the conference: "Much has been done to advance reforms. But it must be admitted that far from full use has been made of the opportunities which offered themselves to Russia in August 1991".

The opposition newspaper PRAVDA said "there was much more democracy in 1990 and early 1991 than in the post-August period", and "socialism which was being renovated in an effort to give it a human face was replaced not with an abstract democratic society but with a specific bourgeois society with an inhuman authoritarian visage".

Almost all newspapers give much attention to the developments in the Chechen Republic. They note the growing popularity of the ex- speaker of the Russian federal parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov. "Ruslan Khasbulatov is swiftly amassing more points in his native republic," IZVESTIYA stresses. Khasbulatov is launching a decisive offensive against the ruling regime in Chechnya," according to TRUD. The latter newspaper notes that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev "in losing self-control" and his decree on the reinstallment of the parliament will hardly give him more supporters. "The overthrow of the regime with little bloodshed is becoming more and more plausible with Ruslan Khasbulatov's growing activity", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA forecasts.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) recalls that Russia "is obliged to protect its interest" in Chechnya. "In the final account, the Russian Government is now paying for its earlier lack of adequate reaction to what was happening in Chechnya," the newspaper stresses. According to it, "Russia has sufficient potential to influence the Caucasian affairs in a civilized manner".

The press continues to comment on the MMM affair. IZVESTIYA reports that an unsanctioned meeting of MMM shareholders in front of the White House in Moscow was dispersed by OMON (special operations) units and comments that "as long as the OMON rubber sticks "remain the decisive argument used by authorities in their dialogue with the people wishing to invest their money, the securities market is hardly likely to operate quietly and effectively".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA notes that "MMM President Sergey Mavrodi continues to violate the laws even when he is behind bars" by conveying through his lawyers an order to publish preliminary quotations of MMM share prices.

Commenting on the ballyhoo in the West around the smuggled plutonium seized in Germany aboard the Lufthansa flight from Moscow, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA says "Western democracies have demonstrated unusual haste in an effort to grasp control over the industry whose products are capable of competing against theirs". According to the newspaper, "even if experts point to the Russian origin of the confiscated plutonium, its leak must have been organised with exclusively provocative aims in mind and, possibly, with the assistance of the Russian lobbying circles commissioned by the West".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA believes that the "programme of solving the problem of outstanding corporate debts is unlikely to produce tangible results soon".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA quips that "the whole country is being proclaimed insolvent", and state officials "intend to force enterprises to pay for the insolvency of their main consumers - the state and the population".

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Hardliners Oppose Joint-U.S. Military Exercises

LD2208172294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Members of the small opposition Revival Liberal-Patriotic Party at a news conference in Moscow condemned forthcoming Russian-U.S. exercises to be held at the Totsk testing ground, Orenburg Region, next month.

One party member, presented as General Yuriy Yefremov of the Academy of the Armed Forces' Chief of Staff, said the exercises "are aimed at holding joint reprisal operations" against spontaneous uprisings in Russia and neighboring states.

They are also intended to make the public get used to a U.S. military presence in Russia, he said.

Yefremov believes social upheavals and ethnic conflicts to be one of the possible targets of so-called joint reprisal operations. However, he says these "may force the Slavs and other peoples to resort to guerrilla warfare against U.S. peacekeepers who will be associated with foreign invaders."

By and large, the Russian Army is supportive of the idea of joint exercises and only "a few progress types oppose it," Yefremov said.

Stepashin, Germany's Schmidbauer Conclude Talks

LD2208182194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 22 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug—Three days of talks between Sergey Stepashin, member of Russia's Security Council and director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and Bernd Schmidbauer, minister of state in the Federal Chancellor's Office coordinating the activity of the German special services, ended in Moscow today with the signing of a memorandum on cooperation between Germany and Russia in combatting the illegal trade in nuclear materials.

In their brief speeches before journalists, in whose presence both state officials attached their signatures to the Russian-German memorandum, Schmidbauer and Stepashin noted with satisfaction the friendly atmosphere of the talks and the constructive approach of both sides to discussing even the most difficult and delicate matters.

The memorandum contains a list of specific measures aimed at increasing bilateral cooperation. Its contents will be published in more detail after the federal chancellor and the Russian president have acquainted themselves with it.

For his part, Schmidbauer stressed that he will today inform Helmut Kohl of the results of the mission entrusted to him, which he considers successfully fulfilled. The head of the German delegation told a KRIM-TASS correspondent that the instructions given to him by the federal chancellor went beyond the bounds of discovering the origin of the plutonium confiscated at Munich airport by the Bavarian police.

"The main thing, and we achieved this," he stressed, "is the establishment of bilateral liaison at an operational level in the fight against the illegal traffic in nuclear materials."

Sergey Stepashin announced that the German side has presented certain evidence on the latest cases concerning uranium and plutonium, and a number of names have been handed over concerning which the Russian special services will act promptly on their own territory, while their German counterparts would carry out their part of the agreed measures.

Although the relevant agreements have existed since 1992, until the latest episodes with radioactive elements they have not, unfortunately, worked satisfactorily.

"But it is an ill wind that blows no one any good," the director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service pointed out. "The latest event has impelled both departments to undertake specific operational work."

Sergey Stepashin called on all states concerned to join in the bilateral cooperation between Germany and Russia in the struggle against the illicit traffic in nuclear materials (or as Bernd Schmidbauer graphically put it, against their dangerous uncontrolled "wandering" around Europe), making this cooperation multilateral.

During the talks, agreement was also reached on closer working cooperation in other fields: the fight against organized crime, certain types of economic crimes, and international terrorism.

In continuation of the specific work initiated, in the words of both figures, in the talks of 20-22 August in Moscow, the German side invited their Russian colleagues to come to Bonn in September-October this year.

Status of Seized Plutonium Unclear

LD22081539 Moscow ITAR-TASS IN English 1437 GMT 22 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, August 22 TASS—During the talks held in Moscow between the plenipotentiary representative of the German Government and State Minister of the Federal Chancellor's Department, Bernard Schmidbauer, and Director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, Sergey Stepashin authorized by President Boris Yeltsin to represent Russia, the sides discussed the origin of radioactive plutonium-239 fit for the production of nuclear weapons, which had been confiscated in Munich. "This kind of plutonium has never been used in Russian nuclear weapons, " said

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Chief of the Head Scientific Technological Nuclear and Chemical Department of the Russian Atomic Ministry, Yevgeniy Mekerin. He expressed the opinion of scientists who attended the talks.

However, in an interview with ITAR-TASS state officials were less categoric in their statements. Stepashin said that materials submitted by the German side were being studied. Schmidbauer was rather reserved as well, saying that his mission went far beyond finding out to whom the confiscated plutonium belonged. The main task was to negotiate long-tern cooperation between German and Russian secret services in fighting against illegal transfer of nuclear materials.

Munich Plutonium 'No Relation to Russia'

LD2208182294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] According to the leading Russian nuclear research cente., the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow, the plutonium discovered by German law enforcement bodies in Munich has no relation to Russia.

Andrey Gagarinskiy, one of the directors of the center and who is also executive secretary of the Russian Nuclear Society, told Interfax on Monday that the plutonium confiscated in Munich had been produced at a foreign research reactor and is not the high quality plutonium produced at Russian nuclear plants.

He stressed that the Kurchatov Institute, which does keep a certain amount of plutonium for scientific purposes, has not registered any theft or disappearance of nuclear materials.

"We have a very reliable security system," Gagarinsky said. Even so, he said the center was making an inventory of the materials for safety's sake.

Lukin Views Future Relations With Germany

LD2208161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 22 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] With the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany on August 31 the question arises how the new unified strong great power is going to develop in the future. The statement was made in an interview with Interfax by the head of the Russian parliamentary committee for international affairs Vladimir Lukin.

In his opinion the future relations between Moscow and Bonn depend on whether Germany is going to develop in the direction of further integration in the all-European home or in the direction of "Germanizing Europe".

"Both tendencies exist, but much depends on the Russian policy on the part of Europe lying between Russia and Germany. This policy should not be noisy, because noisy declarations of greatness at a moment of weakness are the worst thing that can be imagined," Lukin said.

He added: "We often declare our greatness while in reality we are weak. To speak softly holding a big stick is a cynical, but much more practical policy than such declarations of greatness."

Lukin thinks Moscow should take all that into account. "Much depends on Germany, on Europe, but much also depends on Russia. We favor European Germany and democracy in Russia. That would be the best combination."

According to the official, there are forces in Germany that do not want to see Germany great in the old sense of the word but want it to become an inseparable part of democratic Europe. "Our task is to form reliable guarantees against Russian and German great power chauvinism", Lukin said.

Serbian Premier Arrives in Moscow

LD2208143594 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1330 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] [Prime Minister] Mirko Marjanovic, the head of the Serbian Government arrived in Moscow today. During his visit he is expected to hold talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. This will be the first high-level meeting of representatives of the two countries following the introduction by Belgrade of sanctions against Bosnian Serbs.

Holds Trade Cooperation Talks

LD2208194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow and Belgrade have resumed their dialogue on trade and economic cooperation after a lengthy interval caused by UN economic sanctions against Serbia.

According to the press service of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, talks began on Monday between minister Oleg Davydov and the Serbian head of government Mirko Marianovic.

During the meeting Marianovic spoke of Serbia's special interest in continuing and intensifying business cooperation with Russia. For instance, after the lifting of sanctions Belgrade counts on an increase in supplies of Russian natural gas. It inquired about the possibility of building a gas pipeline for transporting Russian gas directly to Serbia.

In 1992 before the introduction of sanctions Yugoslavia received 3 billion cubic meters of gas. Under long-term contracts supplies were set to grow to 4.8 billion cubic meters.

During the talks the two sides also discussed the possibility of resuming humanitarian gas supplies before the abolition of sanctions: the needs of medical and educational institutions.

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Talks will continue on Tuesday. The sides are expected to sign documents on trade and economic relations between Russia and Serbia.

Yugoslavia was one of the 10 biggest trade partners of the former Soviet Union.

Panov: Upcoming Jiang Visit an 'Important' Event

LD2208155494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 22 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] Chairman of the Republic of China Jiang Zemin's visit to Russia, scheduled for the beginning of September, is an important event in relations between Russia and China which have neither disagreements nor contradictions at the moment, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told Interfax on Monday.

He said Russia and China had closed the chapters of the past and enhanced bilateral cooperation to an unprecedentedly high level of constructive partnership. "It is devoid of ideology, does not imply allied relations and is not targeted against third countries. It is also based on the principles of good neighborly relations between the two great nations," said Panov.

He announced that the status of cooperation between Russia and China would be documented in a joint declaration which is to be signed by the Russian and Chinese leaders in Moscow. "Our relations are in very good shape and we must use this favorable atmosphere for broadening them in all spheres," he said.

He also pointed out that during Jiang Zemin's visit an agreement on non-targeting strategic missiles is expected to be signed. "It's a very important document pointing to a very high degree of mutual trust," he said.

To quote Panov, the two sides are to conclude an agreement on the western section of the Russian-Chinese border. "So in addition to the agreement on the eastern section of the border, ratified in 1991, the whole of the border will be given a juridical status for the first time in the history of bilateral relations," said Panov.

He said that the demarcation of the eastern border was underway and that the demarcation of the western section would begin soon. "This work is rather complicated, but we are confident that both sides are interested in it," he said,

"During this work, some areas may be joined to Russia, while others to China," he went on to say. "However, no one should make the dramatic conclusions about the loss of historical territories," he said. "In this region the border has never been demarcated before juridically, i.e. by agreement of both sides, and problems will inevitably arise," said Panov.

In this connection, Russia proposed holding a joint discussion of the economic utilization of the regions which will pass from one side to another. "Peking welcomed this initiative," he said.

At the same time, Panov confirmed Russia's sovereignty over two border regions which do not come under the border agreement. He said that he meant a stretch of the land near Khabarovsk and an island on the river Argun. We consider these territories Russian, although China does not accept our position, he said. He also expressed Russia's readiness to continue talks on this disputable issue.

He expressed hope that during the Chinese leader's forthcoming visit to Moscow, the two sides would determine new and modern forms of trade. "Barter exchanges on which Russian-Chinese commercial relations were based, have exhausted themselves," he said. "Given this, we expect the trade turnover to decrease to 40 percent. In 1994, the volume of Russian-Chinese trade turnover reached the $8 million mark," he said. The Russian diplomat told Interfax that the joint declaration would specify areas of military-technical cooperation, confirming that it would be of a purely defense nature and would not be targeted against third countries.

He said in this connection that Russia would supply China only with defense systems with due account taken of all aspects of the regional policies, so such cooperation would not upset neither the balance of forces nor stability in the region. Cooperating with China in the military-technical sphere, Moscow observes all of its international commitments and the principle of transparency, and does not engage in secret or large-scale arms supplies. For this reason it does not see any reasons for anyone's fears, said Panov.

He announced that Moscow and Beijing were drafting an agreement on the extradition of criminals because in view of a rapid development of Russian-Chinese relations, above all border trade, individual Chinese citizens arriving in Russia refuse to return home.

The Russian and Chinese authorities have agreed to take measures to prevent such incidents, particularly connected with criminal activity, said Panov.

Commenting on Russia's relations with Taiwan, Panov said that in 1993 bilateral trade amounted to $600 million. "Taiwan is Russia's major trade partner and our broadening contacts in no way complicate our relations with China," said Panov.

He also noted that a branch of the Taibei-Moscow commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation is operating in Moscow. In the near future a similar branch is to be opened in Taiwan, he said. Also, there are plans to establish a direct air line between Moscow and Taipei, said Panov.

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Progress Expected on Ukraine Bomber Redeployment

LD2208154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Due to new political leadership in Kiev one can expect progress in solving the problem of the redeployment of strategic bombers from Ukraine to Russia. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax on Monday by a senior source in the Russian Defense Ministry.

He said that for a long time the two sides have been unable to agree on a sum as compensation to Ukraine for the transfer of 18 TU-160 planes and 23 TU-95 MS. Earlier Kiev demanded $3 billion for the planes. However, Russian experts, who visited airfields in Priluki, Chernigov Region, and Uzin near Kiev, where the bombers are deployed, believe the sum should stand at 217 billion rubles.

According to the source, compensation to Ukraine would take the form of writing off a certain amount of its debt for energy supplies from Russia. It is expected that the procedure for the transfer of the strategic bombers and the compensation will be outlined in separate provisions of a Russian-Ukrainian inter-government agreement.

Rogozin Visits Crimea, Proposes Compatriot Status Edict

MK2008110694 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Pilat report in the "Position" column: "Rogozin Wants to Return Russian Citizenship to Crimeans. The Congress of Russian Communities Invites the President to Introduce the Status of Compatriot"]

[Text] Yesterday the Crimean Supreme Soviet newspaper KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA published on its front page a large interview with Dmitriy Rogozin, leader of an international public organization, the Congress of Russian Communities [CRC]. He sees as the objective of his visit to Crimea, "an analysis and assessment of the situation developing in Crimea with regard to aid from Russia or other specific political forces, with regard to granting civil rights to Crimeans, and finally with regard to breaking the information and political blockade of Crimea."

Because Crimea "is at the cross roads between Russia and Ukraine," Rogozin is convinced that it "is a place of major political and economic battles, a test site of confrontation between Russian national interests and the interests of other contiguous states," and he wants to study everything thoroughly.

According to Rogozin, first priority in Crimea needs to be given to the issue of citizenship. Rogozin believes that this is not so difficult to straighten out. The Crimeans with their ties primarily to Russia, treating Ukraine from a purely administrative position have found themselves in emigration, as it were, against their will. Moreover, there is not a single legal enactment enshrining their Ukrainian citizenship.

The CRC submitted to the Russian president a proposal to introduce the status of compatriot. It means that all citizens of the former Soviet Union automatically acquire Russian nationality, except for those who voluntarily renounce it.

Rogozin is convinced that with the introduction of the status of compatriot the Crimeans would become citizens of Russia and could participate in all-Russian referendums and elections to local federal bodies. "Furthermore, this would allow Crimea to nominate its own deputy candidates to the highest state power bodies in Russia."

Work Under Way To Demarcate Border with Estonia

LD2208173094 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1430 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Russia has unilaterally begun the demarcation of its borderline with Estonia. The border runs along areas which Estonia regards as its own on the basis of the Tartu peace treaty. Our Moscow correspondent has visited the Russian side of the disputed region.

[Correspondent Martti Hosia] Here in Pechory, at the border station on the Russian side, excavators are digging. Russia is keeping up the pace—a new border crossing post is being built here with Yugoslav labor. An American company is building another border crossing post. Deeper in the forest, a 10-man group of lumberjacks is working, clearing a 20 meter-wide borderline in the dense forest. In addition, 1,000 reinforced concrete posts, proudly bearing the Russian coat of arms, are being driven into the ground.

The work is urgent. Under President Boris Yeltsin's instructions, the borderline must be marked out by the end of this year. Pechory Border Guard Commander Lieutenant Colonel (Valeriy Loskarev) said in explaining the hurry: Now that the roads have been closed, smugglers are seeking to get across the border through the forests. During a six-month period, 38 firearms, among other things, have been confiscated and one border guard has been shot.

The second and perhaps truer reason for the hurry is political. Estonia is demanding for itself two areas currently belonging to Russia on the grounds of the Tartu peace treaty of 1920. The area of the region east of the Narva river and this Pechory region is over 2,000 square kilometers, and the inhabitants number about 50,000, most of them Russians. Estonia lost the areas to Russia in the 1940's when the whole country was annexed to the Soviet Union.

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Indrek Tarand, head of department in the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who has visited Pechory, condemns Russia's current hurry over the border.

[begin Tarand recording, in Finnish] I am very concerned that Russia could not be bothered to inform the relevant Estonian offices that such work was to be started, and naturally many problems are caused by this. [end recording]

[Hosia] The work is, however, continuing at full speed. There are already full checks at the border crossing post on the road leading from Pechory to Estonia; cars are stopped and passports are checked. A similar station belonging to the Estonians stands on the other side of the border river. But only a little further on, the border is still totally unmarked. Anyone can cross the border river by wading. At the present speed, the border will be closed, however, in the next few months to the deep annoyance of the local inhabitants.

What will happen to the border dispute between Russia and Estonia? One guess is that Estonia will give up its demands as soon as domestic political pressures ease off. Estonia is hardly likely to need another 50,000 Russians on top of its troubles. This is Martti Hosia in Pechory.

Lebed Rejects Offer To Head Forces in Tajikistan

LD2308042894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The commander of the 14th Russian Army in the Dniester region, General Aleksandr Lebed, has rejected an offer from the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces to take command of the CIS peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. The offer was made yesterday in Moscow, where Lebed had been urgently summoned on 20 August.

Tajik Appointment Speculated

LD2208202694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, may lead the Armed Forces of Tajikistan. The Ekho Moskvy radio station has reported this. According to its information, Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, had approached Viktor Chernomyrdin, the head of the Russian Government, with a request for the appointment of General Lebed in Tajikistan. On Monday, the commander of the 14th Russian Army deployed in the Dniester region was suddenly called to Moscow where the proposal on the appointment in Tajikistan was made to him.

Yeltsin Appoints Ambassador to Iraq

LD2208162394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug (ITAR-TASS)— Nikolay Vasilyevich Kartuzov has been appointed Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Iraq by an edict issued by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, the Russian federation president's press service reported today.

Propriety of Reception for Freeh Questioned

MM22081621 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russia 22 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "If the FBI Director Had Had This Trick Played on Him at Home, He Would Have Had To Resign"]

[Text] Washington—"General Mikhail Yegorov very much wanted the picnic in honor of the VIP to be a memorable event, although he had only a vague idea how to accomplish that. When FBI chief Louis Freeh arrived at the remote dacha, the Russian first deputy internal affairs minster greeted him with Gypsy dancers, roast sucking pig, and a multitude of relaxing drinks. Yegorov heartily compelled Freeh to 'accept' a glass of vodka. But firing broke out during the festivities. The FBI director's staff, unprepared for an ambush, were caught napping, but very quickly breathed sighs of relief. Apparently, a pair of tipsy Russian militia generals had decided to perform an improvised two-pistol salute in the VIP's honor. 'They fired into the air as a mark of respect for Mr. Freeh,' Yegorov's interpreter said with a smile. 'Obviously, the Americans were dismayed at first. But we Russians were very happy.'" It was with these words that NEWSWEEK began its report on FBI Director Louis Freeh's stay in Russia.

About six weeks before that Militia General Yegorov together with Louis Freeh and the president of the FRG federal criminal administration had given evidence to a U.S. Senate subcommittee. It was a remarkable trio of professionals. Of course, they were by no means in agreement on everything. Our Yegorov's explanations and forecasts were sometimes clearly at odds with the opinion of his Western colleagues. But only in terms of substance. In formal terms, they were all very proper, intelligent, and obviously respectful of one another.

Asked by a senator how fit the legislative base in Russia was for joint work between the FBI and the Ministry of Internal Affairs against organized crime, General Yegorov said that there was practically no legislative base and that all that was being done was based on the "personal rapport" between him and the FBI director. I wrote the words down in my notebook at the time. I also noted that there was suddenly an exchange of polite smiles on the part of everyone present. It is certainly not a very common phenomenon: the leaderships of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the FBI clearing a way through the detritus of the past on the basis of a personal rapport.

Naturally, Director Freeh entertained his collegues from Russia in his own home. Obviously, General Yegorov felt he had to reciprocate.

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Informal meetings of this kind—at a dacha, at a picnic, in a family setting—very often are if not the foundation, then a very great help in matters of truly worldwide importance. That is, of the very scale of the fight against organized crime today. There was not the slightest objection from his colleagues when Mikhail Yegorov described it as having no nationality.

Is it worth mentioning the suckling pig and the array of fine bottles in this connection? The Americans definitely think so. Not because it is reprehensible. But if the menus for all official dinners at the White House are announced in advance and if precise descriptions of all the dishes enjoyed by Bill Clinton and Helmut Kohl at a junket are published in the papers, then the U.S. magazine is certainly not going to make an exception for the Russian general's pig.

The matter of the glass of vodka is rather more serious. Generally speaking, people like Louis Freeh neither smoke nor drink these days. Six years ago one respected senator, now deceased, was not confirmed as defense secretary because it was learned that he had drunk a glass of dry wine at dinner. The U.S. dinner is an evening meal, supper when the working day is over. In this case the senators were clearly interfering in the aspiring secretary's private life. But interfere they did, and he was not confirmed. If they had learned on this occasion that a senior official was boozing, a scandal would have been unavoidable.

As for the Gypsies and the pistol salutes, they, as an American colleague explained to me, practically beggar the imagination. In American political reality, of course.

Louis Freeh became director of the FBI only recently, a year ago. He came from New York, where he worked as a judge. Previously he had worked in the FBI, starting as an ordinary inspector. His trouble-free career made his confirmation by the Senate as the new director of the FBI—normally a long, nerve-racking process—a simple procedure, a series of mutual compliments.

But what would have happened had the irreproachable Freeh taken the liberty of using Gypsies to entertain a foreign guest, even a most important and respected guest? Not necessarily our Gypsies, but ones from Oklahoma or Texas? And had paid them out of FBI funds? Or, worse still, had not paid them at all?

As an American journalist said, there is no need to speculate. Two days later the FBI director, like any department secretary, would have written the President an emotional letter, thanking him for the confidence he had placed in him and expressing a sudden desire to devote the rest of his life to his family.

Even if he were to invite a jazz band to entertain at his own expense, even if he were to allow one of his subordinates to organize such an event, it would mean a swift end to his career. An official compromising the government in that way would be gotten rid of at the first available opportunity.

This is the way not only Louis Freeh and not only the Americans behave. It is the norm for a democratic country, in which the people monitor their own government. The luxurious banquets that are often arranged by private firms and corporations are unacceptable as far as governments are concerned. Those who live off taxpayers' money must be ever-ready to account for every dollar, mark, or pound they spend.

Ostentatious living, let alone binging on the state, is the direct road to resignation. At official receptions and in government members' homes everything must be proper, decent, and abundant—but not over-indulgent.

Exceptions to the rule are very likely. But thousands of specific examples indicate that the democratic world has long since inculcated moderation on its governments. And it continues to do so—daily, incessantly. Primarily through glasnost. Why did the U.S. press report the generals' salute, and not the Russian press? After all, are they not our generals?

I have not been able to talk with the writers of the NEWSWEEK article. But their colleagues have no doubt that the FBI director himself caused the information to be leaked. He was obliged to inform the public about his glass of vodka. So that it would be clear from the outset that by accepting the glass he was not drinking, he was not trying to gratify his shriveled soul, but was doing his duty. He was serving his people in special circumstances, in a special way. If this news had leaked out in some other way things could have gotten nasty.

Essentially, one can understand why the teetotal FBI official did the uncharacteristic thing and drank. But why did our deputy minister bring on the Gypsies? Why were the police generals not afraid of violating the criminal code by firing guns in a population center and using official weapons for unofficial purposes?

The Americans are drawing their own conclusions, which are remote from Russian reality. They can see that neither the Russian press nor Russian voters are monitoring the actions and behavior of individuals of that rank. That being so, it is premature to talk about democracy in Russia.

It is amazing how little our important figures understand their Western and, in particular, their U.S. colleagues. It is as if they deliberately do everything they can to make the worst possible impression. It is as if they actually are unaware that the concept of the "big Russian soul" is not applicable to senior figures today.

When Mstislav Rostropovich pours a glass at the start of a conversation with the president and, with typical Russian hospitality and typical Russian insistence, tries

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to make the president drink, the latter drinks. No one condemns him. Because Rostropovich is paying for the drinks. Or his sponsor is. Or an entrepreneur is. But not the taxpayer—not ever.

Our people can never accept that what is OK for the maestro is not OK for a minister, even if he is partying or entertaining at his own expense.

In describing the FBI chief's adventures in Moscow, the journalists make it clear that any of these actions would have led to the swift resignation of even a very senior government official—we are talking about America, of course. In Russia, as far as I know, a reprimand is unlikely.

Of course, we have little in common still. I just feel sorry for the pig; it might have had a long life. But we are used to shooting. If bandits can, why shouldn't generals do a little shooting?

ITAR-TASS Kills Yeltsin Greeting to Deng

LD2208141694

Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1350 GMT on 22 August transmits a service message killing the item headlined "Yeltsin Sends Birthday Greetings to Deng Xiaoping," published in the 22 August Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 12.

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Political & Social Issues

Grachev, Rybkin Vacationing Close To Yeltsin

MM2208111794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Gennadiy Bochkarev: "Everything Is the Same: Patrol Boat Offshore; President on Vacation"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin flew to Sochi on the evening of 17 August. Were it not for the warm breath of the sea and the palms outside the government lounge at Adler Airport you might have thought that the airliner polished to a sheen and bearing the inscription "Rossiya" [Russia] had landed at Moscow's Vnukovo-2. Boris Nikolayevich was greeted at the aircraft steps by familiar faces: Pavel Grachev, Andrey Kozyrev, and Ivan Rybkin....

The high-ranking guests are spending their vacation in Sochi. At various guarded "installations" and, without actually being aware of it, they are forcing the local administration to keep a vigilant eye on the cleanliness of the resort town. During this season I do not envy the personnel of Sochi's State Motor Vehicle Inspection Administration: They rush about on escort duty almost every day because the list of requiring "mandatory protection" grows longer every year in Russia. Volgas have already been replaced with BMW's. Evidently our automobiles cannot stand the strain....

Statesmen's vacations are covered by state security. Finding out whether it is true, for instance, that Pavel Grachev occasionally drops in to the Central Military Sanatorium for a hard game of volleyball with fellow servicemen is tantamount to stealing a secret map from a safe in the defense minister's office. And, believe me, even a spy satellite could not get a newspaper picture of Ivan Rybkin swimming in the sea.

What of the president? The people who allow access to the number one person in their care have an iron logic like the gates of the president's dacha: Let the man take a vacation! But I and, I am convinced, most of my fellow citizens are interested in how the president spends his brief vacation. He is, after all, a man as well as being the state's top official. For instance, I know for sure that the president does not take the baths at Matsesta in Sochi because I was told this by his wife—I am talking about an earlier occasion, when I put out an unverified report.

Joking is all very well, but during Yeltsin's previous vacation in Sochi "Option No. 1" was devised in Moscow and the canard about the president's being ill was put about.

In order to stop the talk about his health Boris Nikolayevich intends to take part in the "Top Hat" tennis tournament on the "Rus" Joint-Stock Company's (the former Lenin Sanatorium's) smart courts. Naturally the top Russian hats, service caps, panamas, and cloth caps will be playing there. Everyone is dying to see whom the president will partner on the court....

It is the anniversary of the August putsch. The president is at his dacha. On the Black Sea, with a patrol boat offshore. Then it was Foros, now it is Bocharka. So parallels are suggesting themselves. Could the main power minister [Pavel Grachev] be vacationing in Sochi, near the president, so that Boris Nikolayevich does not have to think about anything like that?

Yeltsin Congratulates Construction Workers

LD2208095694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has congratulated the work force of the Transstroy transport construction corporation on the 40th anniversary of the creation of their industry. The congratulatory message notes the great contribution made by transport construction workers toward expanding the country's rail network, building thousands of kilometers of highways, and airports as well.

The main task at present, according to the Russian president, drawing on his own experience as a civil engineer, is to maintain the industrial and research facilities and to use the industry's capacities to the full. That was a report from the Russian head of state's press service.

Yeltsin Issues Edict on 'Children of Russia' Program

LD1908192394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 19 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—A decree on a "Children of Russia" presidential program was issued by Boris Yeltsin today.

The program includes sub-programs of "handicapped children", "orphans", "children of the North", "children of Chernobyl", "family planning" and "development of baby food industry in the Russian Federation for 1991-1995".

The government is instructed to prolong the validity of the "Children of Russia" program for 1996-1997 and expand it with sub- programs "talented children", "summer vacations of children" and "children of refugees and forced migrants".

Executive power bodies of Russian Federation subjects are recommended to elaborate corresponding comprehensive programs on the basis of the presidential program "Children of Russia".

Grain Union Set Up in Opposition to Agrarian Lobby

MK2308090494 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Yelena Zagorodnyaya, Aleksandr Shadrin: "The Agrarian Lobby Is Now Confronted by a Powerful Association of Grain Traders"]

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[Excerpts] The more than six months of work by major participants in the Russian grain market to create their own branch organization has finished, and yesterday the foundation of a non- commercial organization, the Russian Grain Union [RGU], was officially announced. As envisioned by its architects, the RGU is to perform several functions, the main among which are promoting the formation and development of a nationwide grain market in Russia and lobbying government decisions affecting the interests of processors and traders. Therefore the agrarian lobby has received, in the RGU, a powerful opponent; importantly, the main issues around which acute contradictions are bound to arise in the very near future are prices for the grain of the new harvest, and privatization of grain elevators. The outcome of elevator privatization will largely precondition the future of the Russian grain market. [passage omitted] The RGU's immediate plans include registration of the union, elaboration of documents on standardizing trading rules on the grain market, development of standard contracts for various types of products with various supply bases, and replenishing the RGU ranks. An enlarged session is scheduled for the end of September where all the documents prepared by that time will be submitted to the new participants in the grain union.

FITUR Aide Says Government Talks 'Fruitful'

MM2208142194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 20 Aug 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Stanislav Kramarenko, leader of the FITUR Information Analysis Center: "There Was No Government in Russia Until This Year, Vice Premier A. Shokhin Believes. Defaulting and Wages Problems Were Consequently Not Resolved and Efforts Were Focused on Political Intrigues. Aleksandr Nikolayevich Was Silent About Whether He Was in Government During This Period and What He Was Doing"]

[Text] RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA has already reported that a meeting of the leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] and its member organizations with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, and government representatives was held the other day. We report today on the details of the meeting.

What prompted it? The Social Accord Treaty, which the FITUR and a number of its member organizations signed, contains a very important provision—for there to be a continual social dialogue with all partners with an interest in getting the country out of crisis in a civilized fashion. The trade unions are one party—and the only one representing working people. Unfortunately, the other party—the government—is not following the letter and spirit of the treaty in every respect. A whole number of highly important decisions are being drawn up and adopted without the trade unions.

The efficacy and effectiveness of the treaty were just one of the five issues which we raised at the meeting.

The most acute issue today, of course, is the defaulting issue. The head of the Presidential Staff reported that, following his July meeting with FITUR Chairman Mikhail Viktorovich Shmakov, he had sent the president a special note on the mass delays in paying wages. The president discussed the matter with the premier. A government commission has been set up to work out solutions to this acute problem. It includes a trade union representative—Aleksey Ivanovich Surikov, FITUR first deputy chairman.

What solution does it envisage? Vice Premier A. Shokhin proposed an interesting program at our meeting. In particular, for the defense complex there is an intention to issue treasury bills or to pay off debts through state orders rather than in rubles.

Shokhin was rebuked—this is not his first year in the government, what was he doing before? Aleksandr Nikolayevich replied, probably quite reasonably, that until this year we had essentially not had a government. All his efforts had been devoted to political battles.

The employment problem was discussed. It is linked with economic restructuring, which has essentially not taken place hitherto. People do not know what will happen to them and their enterprise in the future.

Every country in our position has started with restructuring. It is only our "reformers" who have led the country in a different direction that nobody understands. That is why we, the trade unions, believe that we now need to carry out a major analysis of the state of each enterprise and to define its future. It is time to apply the law on bankruptcy. It was adopted back in 1992. Workers should not be scared of bankruptcy. It is the directors who are scared of it. And we know why: Implementation of the law will mean a complete revision of our financial and economic activity—something that has not happened for around 10 years. During this period economic managers have done a lot that was criminal—they do not want to make public what homes were built where, or what accounts were opened. But the trade unions are insisting on it.

Taxes. It is common knowledge how burdensome and destructive they currently are for production. The trade unions are doggedly and persistently striving for changes to our vicious tax policy. Of course, they are not the only ones with this goal. And it seems that they have been successful. At any rate, a government commission has been set up to elaborate solutions in this sphere. The commission includes a FITUR representative—also for the first time.

Social partnership. Trade union leaders stated at the meeting that we need to ensure that the general agreement between the government, the trade unions, and employers for 1995 is adopted no later than November. Only then will it be able to become a fully fledged basis for the entire system of social partnership. The leader of

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the Presidential Staff supported our stance. And there is hope that the trade unions' demand will be met.

This should be promoted by one fact. The president has canceled summer leave for officials at the Finance and Economics Ministries (with the exception of the ministers), tasking them with drawing up the draft budget for next year by November. If this document is produced, there will also be a general agreement. Incidentally, I do not understand those State Duma deputies who are currently on vacation. Yes, we are all people, we have a right to relax. But in the situation in which the country finds itself they could have sacrificed their vacations. After all, 196 draft laws are in the pipeline!

In conclusion, we agreed that such meetings would become a regular event.

I believe that the meeting was fruitful, and although there was sometimes some plain speaking, it was nonetheless an entirely peaceful meeting.

But it seems that not everyone thought so. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI published a report with the very eloquent headline: "Trade Unions Threaten War—Presidential Staff Prefers Talks." This article stated that most trade union leaders had already withdrawn their signatures from the Social Accord Treaty. Let me state briefly that this lie should be on the conscience of the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Editorial Office.

High-Level Foreign Intelligence Official Dies

LD2208170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355 GMT 22 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow 22 Aug—After a long illness, Vyacheslav Gurgenov, the deputy director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), died at the age of 59.

Gurgenov was one of the most interesting figures in the Russian intelligence world. He was always noted for his professionalism, erudition, and ability to make unusual decisions which were later proved to be exactly right, according to SVR spokeswoman Tatyana Samolis. "To meet such a person and be able to count him as your friend was simply wonderful", she told ITAR-TASS.

"Vyacheslav Gurgenov's charm, intelligence, clear head, encyclopedic knowledge, refinement and sense of humour always won over the intelligence personnel", the SVR spokeswoman said.

Gurgenov spent 1959 to 1962 in India working for the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Gurgenov began his active career as an intelligence officer in 1963. He continued his work in India from 1965 to 1971. Then he was sent to other places, such as Bangladesh (1971-1972) and Pakistan (1978-1983).

Soon after his Pakistan assignment, Gurgenov became one of the top officials in intelligence. In 1989 he was promoted to deputy head of the KGB's first department. In 1991, when the KGB was splintered into several separate organisations, Gurgenov become deputy director of the SVR, where he remained until his death.

Economic Issues

Soskovets Chairs Discussion of Accounting

MM2208094194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Mashtakov under the "In the Russian Federation Government" rubric: "Mutual Debts—a Heavy Burden"]

[Text] Yesterday the Russian Federation Government Commission for Operational Questions led by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets returned once again to the issue of improving the system of payments and mutual accounting.

According to data from the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics [Goskomstat], current levels of nonpayments stand at 112 trillion rubles [R]. The fuel and energy complex accounts for 36 percent of this figure, and in most cases it is a matter of the payment of wages to workers and middle-level employees.

In the opinion of Russian Federation Goskomstat Deputy Chairman Valeriy Dalin, today's situation can only be altered given appropriate legislative acts and mechanisms for the collection and analysis of the facts of enterprise indebtedness that are mandatory for all economic players. Moreover, it is necessary to introduce local statistical reporting on the financial position of all Russian enterprises, including joint-stock companies and subsidiary and joint firms, since as the main assets are often held by the managers of the parent component in their accounts.

A similar viewpoint is upheld by Minister of Economics Aleksandr Shokhin. In his opinion, such financial somersaults lead to an enormous gap in remuneration between enterprise administrations and workers. The example of the "Zavod Imeni Likhacheva" Joint-Stock Company, where a worker's average wage is R200,000-300,000 while that of the enterprise management runs into millions, beautifully illustrates this situation in many sectors. Strict measures of state control over accounting in all sectors of the national economy are needed in order to overcome this situation.

Soskovets, World Bank Officials Discuss Payment Crisis

LD2208171794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] One third of all overdue debts in Russia is owed to the fuel and energy industries, a cause of major concern

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for the Russian government, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told a delegation of the World Bank in Moscow Monday.

Soskovets said that monopolies are largely responsible for the inter-industry payment crisis. In particular, when higher energy tariffs were introduced without good reason, numerous factories were unable to pay their bills.

Soskovets said Russia will take a tougher line on its immediate neighbors who have failed to pay for Russian fuels and other goods.

Ardy Stoutjesdijk, the World Bank's permanent representative in Moscow, who heads the delegation, said the World Bank is prepared to help Russia overcome the crisis. He believed that the bankruptcy procedures have to be used more extensively, tax collection improved and tougher sanctions imposed for failure to pay debts on time.

Stoutjesdijk said that the Russian government should work harder on reducing its debt, in particular in payment of wages, in order to avoid a rise of social tensions.

He warned against trying to overcome the payment crisis by price freezes but added that the government has a role to play in pricing as long as monopolies control industries.

Soskovets said that the Russian government had no intention of freezing prices because this would not solve the problem.

Shokhin Rejects Idea of Writing Off Debt

MK2308092394 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 3

[International Affairs Department report on interview with Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin under the "Russian Foreign Debt" rubric: "Aleksandr Shokhin Is Confident: Russia is Not a Pauper Country"]

[Text] Commenting for KOMMERSANT-DAILY on the statement by Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov about writing off the debt of the former USSR, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin expressed his utter disagreement with Davydov's stance. In Shokhin's words, Moscow has never put this question like that, moreover, such a solution to the problem may only lead to "a reduction in the inflow of foreign investment in the Russian economy."

Aleksandr Shokhin believes that the statement by the chief of the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry does not reflect Russia's official stance on the issue. According to the deputy prime minister, the government has never raised the question of having the former USSR's foreign debt written off, nor does it intend to. Russia does not consider itself a pauper country by international standards with respect to which the practice of debt cancellation should be applied. If Moscow requests that it be treated like that, it "risks losing its status as a great power, undermining trust in its credit worthiness, and drastically cutting the inflow of investment." In the view of the deputy prime minister, references to Poland and Egypt are also irrelevant. Furthermore, by the time of debt restructuring, Poland's debt amounted to 600 percent of its annual exports, whereas in Russia the figure stands at around 200 percent. Meanwhile, the minimum level for writing off one's debt is approximately 300 percent. As for annual payments, before rescheduling they make up less than 50 percent of Russia's annual exports, which is insufficient even to obtain preferential terms for rescheduling its debt.

"The cancellation of one's debt means that it will be converted into debt instruments—usually bonds—at a nominal value less than the initial sum of the debt with strictly defined terms of servicing—as a rule, with payments due every six months," the deputy prime minister argued. In his opinion, for Russia it is important to have "an opportunity for flexible maneuvering, taking into account the budget situation." If debt is to be reregistered, Aleksandr Shokhin said, Moscow would have to pay in the first several years more than it is paying now. At the same time, reregistered debts cannot be rescheduled. Then Russia would have to repay them at the nominal value, as it is now paying on Vneshekonombank bonds.

Negotiations with creditors, the deputy prime minister emphasized, are being held only on matters regarding the rescheduling of payments on the foreign debt of the former USSR. Owing to a "peak of payments" in 1991-1995 Russia is unable to repay these arrears at one time. In Shokhin's words, Moscow is seeking to cut the payments by changing their schedule, taking into account its actual budget capabilities. As a result of lengthy talks with the Paris Club in 1993-1994, it has reached agreement to reschedule its 1992-1994 payments on the former USSR's debts.

Presidential Aide on Proposed Economic Measures

LD2208175094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 22 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin during a recent tour of the Volga region had announced that the administration was preparing a package of crucial measures intended to keep inflation and the consumer market at a medium rate with the weight of reforms being shifted to production. Senior presidential expert Aleksandr Livshits in an interview with Interfax was commenting on the president's statements.

INTERFAX: What kind of measures are envisaged to achieve the Yeltsin-declared goals?

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LIVSHITS: Most of the presidential decrees issued after May 23 are non-statutory, but these will have been put in place following the creation of mechanisms to implement them by the end of August; at least half of them relate to industrial restructuring.

As member of the government task force vested with wide powers and led by First Vice-Premier Oleg [Soskovets], I know that it is dead set to try to resolve the payment crisis.

Rbl 3.5 trillion worth of credits for conversion and investment purposes is to be allocated by the end of this year under one other presidential decree, and the pattern of distribution looks very attractive.

Further financing has begun from the federal budget including defence ministry orders.

A government team led by Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin of which I am a member is expected to come up with proposals for improved taxation by mid-September. Taxes must be cut, especially the value added tax. High tax applied to double digit inflation can no longer be tolerated at a time when inflation is low and under control.

INTERFAX: The president's recent tour of leading industrial plants appears to have coincided with government measures designed to bring order to financial structures such as MMM, RDS and others. Some say this amounts to shifting away from purely monetary policies to the area of production. Is that true?

LIVSHITS: The MMM scandal is an indication of an outbreak of fierce battles for savings. The conversion of savings into investment now depends on who comes out the winner.

In the meantime, the country's investment climate is the best ever over the period of reforms:

—inflation ran at 2 percent in the first half of August

—private financial groups own combined resources of Rbl 30 trillion.

—industries work at 50 percent capacity

—standby for growth is very high, particularly in the defence sector.

—So is in the construction industry

However, three main problems must be resolved to ensure the flow of money into industry:

—the payment crisis I mentioned before

—transport and energy tariffs (hopes are pinned on the interdepartmental agreement which the government task force for payment crisis approved on August 19)

—cheaper credits which largely depends on the Central Bank of Russia; if CBR drops its interest rate to 100 percent by the end of this year, enterprises will start borrowing and things will improve.

INTERFAX: During his recent tour, Yeltsin had again stressed how much attention he was paying to the social cost of reforms including a widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. What exactly must be done to prevent as Yeltsin put it "either egalitarianism in pay or a wide gap between income brackets"?

LIVSHITS: Following mechanisms must be put in place to achieve this:

—higher tax on the rich

—legislation on non-government forms of social protection such as pension funds and so on.

—government support for rapid restructuring of the consumer market including cheaper cars and housing

—legislation and incentives for consumer credits

However, no administrative restrictions can be imposed on pay increases. Nor is it technically possible to enforce the measure. Instead, this will lead to hightened tension with incomes being driven away into the shadow economy and loss of tax revenues as a result.

Economics Expert on Increasing Oil Exports

LD2208181594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Russia will "be forced" next year to increase its crude oil exports to between 95 and 97 million tonnes, an Economics Ministry expert told the Petroleum Information Agency today.

"There is no doubt that larger energy exports to countries outside former Soviet territory will be ensured by sharply reducing supplies to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States," the expert said.

At the same time, Russia will not increase its sales of oil products on the world market - "27 to 30 million tonnes a year is all we'll be able to export," - although oil refineries are sure "to do their best to have as much of their output exported as possible," their storehouses being full of unsold fuel due to their financial problems, the expert said.

The Fuel and Energy Ministry expects Russia's oil production to fall under 300,000 million tonnes next year, which will force the country to increase crude oil exports by 25 to 30% whatever the world price is. Ministry official Anatoliy Sharay said that, following the abolition of export quotas and licenses in Russia from January 1, many enterprises would seek to step up exports of their products.

Last year, Russia sold about 80 million tonnes of crude oil outside the territory of the former Soviet Union. This year's exports may reach 85 to 87 million tonnes, government experts estimate.

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Supply Problems Slow Harvesting Work

LD2208171194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] A senior official from the Russian Agriculture Ministry said crops in Russia have been gathered from 6 million hectares less than last year.

Gridasov said that given the average yield of 22 centners a hectare (23.5 centners in 1993), the gross pick has so far been only 31 million tonnes against 49 million tones last year.

He blamed the slower harvest not so much on adverse weather conditions in central Russia and Urals as on the problems of irregular fuel and lubricant supplies, the shortage of spare parts, scarce funds, and the wear of harvesters and other farm machinery.

As a result, farms sold to the federal food fund last week, as the agriculture department reports, only 10,000 tons of grain (a total of 11 million tonnes are planned for purchase), however, they sold about 1 million tonnes to regional funds (26-27 million tonnes). At the same time, they transferred more than 3 million tonnes of grain to elevators for storage.

Nearly 9 million tonnes of grain were bought for the federal and regional funds by this time last year.

Russia's Agriculture Minister Victor Khlystun told Interfax Friday that the government did not intend to fix a firm purchasing price of grain, bearing in mind that sellers and buyers will make deals as they please.

He said that the cost of grain would change from region to region. In North Caucasus areas, grain prices range from 150,000 to 160,000 rubles a tone.

The 1994 harvest in Russia is estimated at 89—94 million tonnes, at least five million tonnes less than last year's crop.

Upgraded Tax System Designed to Restrain Inflation

MK2308100294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Aug 94 p

[Unattributed report: "The Tax System Will Be Improved"]

[Text] A working group led by Russian Federation Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is preparing, by mid-September, proposals on upgrading the taxation system, said Aleksandr Livshits, chief presidential economic aide. According to him, the measures which will be taken based on recommendations by the Shokhin group will become part of "large-scale decisions" to "maintain moderate inflation." Discussing anti-inflation measures, Livshits drew attention to the "active work" by the operational commission on nonpayments headed by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets.

Widespread Resistance Seen To 'Investment Revolution'

MM2208090994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Berger: "Economy Ministry Prepares Investment Revolution. Grassroots and High-Ups View It Without Enthusiasm"]

[Text] The drafts of another six economic edicts are on the president's desk. They all have a direct bearing on one relatively limited sphere, namely investment policy. But it is in this sphere that the great conflicting interests of the authorities, officials, management, and private individuals are concentrated....

One of the weakest survivals from socialism—centralized investments—has survived up until now (and evidently will not suffer an imminent demise). In Soviet times industrial giants and influential captains of socialist industry developed via centralized capital investment. Now, in addition to the installations being erected, private capital and other shoots often grow out of budget money. One thing remains unchanged: Centralized investments do not have to be earned, and there is no need to present or even draw up cogent feasibility studies. The main thing for the person seeking state money is to end up in the investment program, that is receive the right to spend taxpayers' money. It is spent in various ways. Sometimes intelligently and usefully, sometimes just usefully; sometimes it is just spent.

Even today, when there is not enough money in the budget for everything, not even medicine, centralized investments represent a tidy sum. This year the volume of centralized capital investments has been set at over 23 trillion rubles [R]. And the federal program accounts for R16 trillion.

There are naturally more than enough people wanting to get their hands on this money. The Ministry of the Economy is proposing to issue money by tender (with the exception of socially oriented projects). In the form of loans, moreover, that must be repaid, and with interest. And there is the quite inconceivable requirement that each investment project be examined mandatorily in advance and followed by rigorous state supervision of how the assigned funds are spent.

It is being suggested that applications should not be considered for projects with a payback period in excess of two years. Applicants for state investments must also risk their own capital.

All these simple and understandable principles were enshrined in the new concept for the federal investment program. Its authors think that this approach will make it possible to boost the effectiveness of the limited state investment potential and, on the other hand, reduce to a minimum the "human factor" as regards the allocation of budget funds.

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Back at the end of May the program was submitted for government ratification but met with a somewhat hostile reception and was returned for finalization. Following finalization it was once again submitted to the government, but it has so far remained unexamined.

There are several reasons why a number of influential groups and individuals are not interested in seeing a fundamental change in the system of centralized investment. The principle whereby unmonitored projects and clamorous ministries have hitherto received budget investment. This system transfers competition from the realm of economic expediency and effectiveness to the realm of personal influence and connections. And when the provision of budget funds depends not on clear principles but on the personal potential of individual officials, there is inevitably talk of the "commission" that can be received in return for "help" in obtaining state funds.

What is more, centralized investments remain virtually the only means today for ministries to influence enterprises and directors. A minister who has seized some budget funds immediately becomes a very respected person in the eyes of the leaders of even enterprises that have been floated and are independent, since he can provide them with money. Or not, as the case may be.

That is why some "grassroots" and some "high-ups" are totally uninterested in seeing change in the investment sphere. And the Economy Ministry is trying to organize an investment revolution in this totally unrevolutionary situation.

Central Bank Spokesmen Deny Reports on Bankers' Arrests

MK2008103294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 1

[AFI report: "Statement by Russian Federation Central Bank"]

[Text] SEGODNYA has published a report claiming that "law- enforcement agency workers have detained a number of high-ranking Central Bank officials who were involved with the allocation of credits." The Russian Central Bank press service is authorized to state that as of today the Russian Central Bank is not aware of any detentions of bank officials responsible for the allocation of credit reserves.

Further Cut Seen in State's Economic Role

MM2308090194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Sergey Pavlenko, Chief, and Mstislav Afanasyev, Deputy Chief of the Russian Federation Government Working Center for Economic Reforms by Aleksandr Tyutyunik; date and place not given: "Ours Is a Silent Business Sector, But Not for Long—This Is the View of Experts on Economic Reform"]

[Text] Have the economic reforms gone far enough? How are the Russian president's latest edicts affecting the situation in the economy? These questions began our conversation with Sergey Pavlenko, chief of the Russian Federation Government Working Center for Economic Reforms, and his deputy, Mstislav Afanasyev.

[S. Pavlenko] In recent times a great deal has altered. Above all, the regime has changed. Today it is represented by three powerful branches—indeed, in parliament this concept even involves two chambers. Add to this the regional structures.... So it is possible to conclude that the authoritative potential of each branch is limited and that drastic intervention in the economy has become impossible.

Remember that not so long ago the "top dogs" were expected to have a free rein. Now it is not so much a free rein as a procedure for liberation that is expected. Many business people believe that there is enough freedom already, and now they are demanding to be given rules—any stable rules, tailored not just for one day but for the long-term future. At this point it seems to me that the executive's political line should consist primarily in striving to carry out its own decisions. Such as the edict on liberalizing exports.... It would appear to be the most reformist, unambiguous edict. However, 90 percent of it has already been repealed.

[Tyutyunik] So does it follow that what we are dealing with is state nonintervention by compulsion? Is this a characteristic of the coming stage of liberalization?

[S. Pavlenko] If that is indeed so, then the next stage of liberalization will comprise a situation where the "state share" in relations with the economy will reduce even further. Life itself will force a section of state functionaries to transform into commercial structures, to call themselves something like a "joint-stock lobbying company," and to obtain a wage from sources other than the budget. Along the lines of the Ministry of the Forestry Industry, for instance, which became "Roslesprom." So it is that "Rosugol," the "YeES ROSSII" Russian Joint-Stock Company, and others emerged. Clearly the Ministry of Fuel and Energy has to be floated. Then questions concerning, say, licensing will switch to the economic components themselves—the major companies, which will negotiate a market. However, to begin with it is essential to get to grips with decisions already adopted. I think that this is being closely followed right now by the so-called "silent majority" of our business sector—small and medium businesses.

[Tyutyunik] What steps should be taken today by the state in order to support small and medium business?

[S. Pavlenko] At this point, I will take the liberty of giving you a forecast rather than an answer. It seems to me that any functionary should now be in fear not of the people outside waving banners but of the organized stratum of entrepreneurs. In my view, new social

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upheavals are possible only from that direction: businessmen, producers, and the third estate—against government functionaries. Ours is a silent business sector, but very soon it may organize itself.

[Tyutyunik] We mentioned the relationship between the economy and the state. Is it possible to formulate the state's functions?

[M. Afanaseyev] In my view, there should be four such functions: fencing society off from violence and invasion from outside (that is, defense); protecting the individual from violence within the country (justice); supporting specialist institutions (natural monopolies, infrastructure); and financing these functions (taxation). In implementing these functions the state should be firm and consistent. Maybe this picture will seem idealistic, but it is my deep conviction that it is necessary to strive for precisely that. There is no point in a government's undertaking price regulation. Incidentally, the state today is no longer what it was in the past. The era of never-ending red tape has gone, and society has indeed changed. Interaction on the human level is greater than before. Gaydar did an important thing in beginning radically to alter the milieu, but only now is it possible to sense unmistakably that people will never return to subjugation, having had a taste of freedom.

[Tyutyunik] Except those who are poor. And they, according to some estimates, number up to 40 percent. There are others who simply love order more than freedom. The combination of one with the other forms an infamous mixture.

[M. Afanasyev] Poverty, even if the statistics can be believed, is just the outer layer of the problem. It is economically important to understand that people are not yet completely free of the state yoke. It is essential to free "exchange mechanisms" completely and then to count how many remain poor. The state will be able to help them. Incidentally, even here aid can be of a wholly commercial nature. As for the love of order and Russian specifics, then, as our Western colleagues say, in particular Jeffrey Sachs, Russia is an unusual country, but even there you cannot turn the clock back.

[Tyutyunik] Obviously we must take account of the time factor....

[M. Afanasyev] But it is not necessary to look at the clock every minute—after all, life is not a stagnant entity.... Observation shows that all capable people find their own way. And not only in the capitals, but in the provinces too. So it is that the Muromskiy Machine-Building Plant went out of business 18 months ago. And it did not hang around until something came to an end or somebody lent a hand, but rather it gathered its forces and rebuilt. Now it is not waiting for anything, but is simply working.

Thousands Seek To Buy Shares as MMM Offices Reopen

LD2208164794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 22 Aug 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—The offices of the Russian "MMM" investment fund were reopened for business on Monday for the first since they were closed down a couple of weeks ago in response to the company's financial crash. The decision to open the offices was made by MMM President Sergey Mavrodi, now in jail awaiting trial on charges of major tax evasion as head of an MMM subsidiary, "Invest-Consulting".

There were more than ten thousand people gathered around the MMM headquarters on Varshavskoye highway in Moscow, waiting to buy MMM shares at the set price of 1515 roubles. They were not daunted by the Finance Ministry's weekend warning that MMM's "postcards" could not be considered real shares.

At the same time, the MMM management still promises that it will entertain appeals from elderly, handicapped, and poor shareholders that their shares be bought at the pre-crash price (July 28) of 125 thousand roubles. This commission will begin work only on August 29.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Planned Space Launches Reported

OW2308052994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1835 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Aleksandr Galkin report over video; from the "Coordinates of Progress" segment of the "Utro" program]

[Text] The coming week will be quite full of space activities. The launching of a Progress transport vehicle to the Mir space station on 24 August from the Baykonur Cosmodrome is envisioned. As usual it will deliver foodstuffs and water, material for experiments, and unexposed photographic film and video tapes. If for some reason the launch does not take place, the backup date is 27 August.

The launching of a military satellite is also being planned from Baykonur. The primary date is 26 August with the backup date being the next day. It is not known what the mission of the satellite will be. All that is known is that it is being launched in the interests of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense.

The latest Molniya communications satellite will be launched into orbit from the northern test range at Plesetsk on 25 or 26 August. All the launches, regardless of their missions, will be carried out by the Military Space Forces of Russia.

Security System 'Precludes' Significant Nuclear Theft

LD2208154194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] The security system at Russian nuclear facilities, worked out in the mid-1970s, precludes the theft of any

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significant amount of nuclear materials, a well-informed officer at the Krasnoyarsk-26 nuclear enterprise told Interfax.

"We carried out several examinations after the reports on the seizure of "Russian uranium" by the German authorities and found out that the situation with such nuclear materials as uranium-239 or plutonium-239 is completely controlled at the enterprise," the source said. He said that he had consulted his colleagues from other nuclear centers to confirm the information that there have not been any thefts of nuclear materials registered.

The source said that there had been four attempts to steal nuclear materials and equipment from the Krasnoyarsk-26 nuclear center since the beginning of the 1980s. "Three of the culprits were caught immediately during inspection procedures and the last one was caught within a very short period of time," he added. He stressed that all of the cases the nuclear materials had not been removed from the industrial zone.

The Krasnoyarsk-26 and Arzamas-16 closed enterprises produce highly enriched uranium and plutonium in Russia. According to official sources, the Chelyabinsk-40 nuclear enterprise was closed. Its reactor was switched off and there are no nuclear materials remaining on its territory.

Modified Tupolev Tu-160 Bomber To Launch Satellites

OW2208134594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1835 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Aleksandr Galkin report over video; from the "Coordinates of Progress" segment of the "Utro" Program]

[Text] The need for satellites in the world is growing from day to day. They are indispensable to communications workers and meteorologists, navigators, and geologists, but the traditional method of launching them with heavy rockets from land-based cosmodromes is being complicated first of all by the fact that there are only a few cosmodromes, secondly by the high costs, and thirdly by the vagaries of the weather. [video shows graphics depicting a communications satellite, then a Tu-160 strategic bomber in flight flanked by Su-27 fighters]

Specialists at the Tupolev Design Bureau have proposed another scheme launch option—using the Tu-160 strategic bomber as a flying cosmodrome, after completely refitting it from a combat aircraft to a strictly civilian one. The new modification has been given the designation Tu-160SK, which means space aircraft [samolet kosmicheskiy], while the entire system has been named Burlak. [video cuts to show "N.D. Gorskiy, chief of a department and state prize laureate," speaking to an off-camera reporter]

[Begin Gorskiy recording] The aircraft provides a mobile system. It can take off from any location on the globe and carry out a launch from any spot over the globe whereas heavy rockets require cosmodromes and all that that entails. This is why we chose the supersonic Tu-160SK aircraft. The Burlak launch installation is totally new and has no resemblance to any other system. So the old launching systems are being removed, I mean the combat ones if you can call them that, and a special launch system for the accelerator vehicle is being installed. [end recording; video shows computer graphics of the Burlak system in operation, a model of the aircraft, and glossy brochure in German and English describing the system]

As a matter of fact it is impossible to confuse the flying cosmodrome with a combat Tu-160. In the strategic bomber the missiles are stored internally in the fuselage while the Tu-160SK carries the space rocket externally. It is envisaged that at first the Burlak system will be used to create a global communications system. It will launch satellites weighing from 500 kilograms to one tonne into an orbit of up to 1,000 kilometers above the surface of the Earth. If the project receives sufficient financing it could become operational in only two and a half years.

A similar U.S. system known as Pegasus is at an earlier stage of development, and by its characteristics is inferior to the Burlak system.

Missile Destruction Process Outlined

MM2208155394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "'Satan' and 'Spanker' Perish in Surovatikha"]

[Text] Surovatikha/Moscow—Truly historic events are taking place in the settlement of Surovatikha, or to be more precise, in the village of Dalneye-Konstantinovo, at the Strategic Missile Forces' arsenal in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast. There, even before the START II treaty has been ratified and come into force, for two years already Russia has being destroying its RS-20 heavy liquid-propellant missiles—the largest in the world and known in the West as SS-18 "Satan"—and the slightly smaller RS-16 strategic missiles, known in the NATO classification as SS-17 "Spanker."

The RS-20 and RS-16 missiles were developed in the "Yuzhnoye" design bureau in Dnepropetrovsk more than 20 years ago and entered service in December 1975. The RS-20 weighs 211 tonnes (the largest American missile, the "MX," for example, weighs only 88 tonnes), is 36.5 meters long and 3 meters in diameter, and has 10 megaton-class nuclear warheads (multiple reentry vehicles), each with a total throw-weight of 8.8 tonnes. A total of 308 of these missiles were made. They stood, and still do stand on alert duty in the settlements of Dombarovskiy and Kartaly in the South Urals, in Derzhavinsk and Zhangiz-Tobe in Kazakhstan, and in Aleysk and Uzhur in Altay.

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The RS-16 weighs 71 tonnes and has four warheads, also of megaton class and with a throw-weight of 2.55 tonnes. It has a height of 24 meters and a diameter of 2.25 meters. More than 50 of these missiles were made. They all used to stand on alert duty in the Vypolzovo garrison in Tver Oblast. But the "Satans" and "Spankers" are all coming to die in just one place in Russia—the base for the destruction of strategic missiles in Surovatikha.

They are being destroyed not because of any especial love of peace, nor because of a desire to set a personal example to the Americans—see, this is how to fulfil agreements not yet ratified by parliament—the reason is far simpler: Both the RS-20 and the RS-16 have reached the end of the guaranteed lifetime issued and confirmed by the general designer even though it was extended. To protract this life any further is risky and, in the final analysis, pointless—times are different today: The Southern Machine Building Plant is now outside Russia's borders, and liquid-propellant missiles are being replaced by solid-fuel, single-warhead, mobile, and more reliable missiles; moreover, the era of universal suspicion and thermonuclear confrontation between two worlds is a thing of the past.

True, destroying strategic missiles is no less expensive and troublesome than creating them. Colonel Vladimir Bessarab, the arsenal's chief engineer, did not tell me the cost of this process, but it is obvious that it runs into billions.

Missiles arrive at the base by railroad already without their nuclear nose cones. The RS-20's arrive on a chain of linked flatcars covered with tarpaulin. The RS-16's arrive in a special railcar. They are taken into hall 101 (a huge workshop approximately the length and breadth of a soccer pitch) to be dismantled and uncoupled from their transport-and-launch capsules and for the first and second stages to be detached. Then they are hauled to the deactivation room, where hoses containing a special solution and hot steam are applied to the fuel tanks and the oxidant tank—these liquids have already been drained off at the unit—and the purging and neutralization of the residual missile fuel begins.

After draining, around 100 kg of the fuel—heptyl, a highly toxic and corrosive substance which is dangerous in the highest degree—and slightly less of the oxidant —amyl, known more simply as nitric acid—remain. They are steamed out in sealed conditions for several days before the tanks and remaining sections are sent for dismantling and cutting up and the neutralized solutions are for burning in the incinerator. Incidentally, only officers do this dangerous work.

Only carbon dioxide is discharged into the atmosphere. The maximum permissible content of this gas in the air in a section of the pipe, I was told at the base, is less than in the smallest city boiler. This is monitored not only by the arsenal laboratory, but also by extradepartmental ecological monitors from the Moscow Institute of Biophysics.

The missile canisters, shortened by 1.5 meters so that they can no longer be used for their original purpose, are then exhibited on the inspection site (the Americans have not yet been here; evidently they are waiting for the START-I treaty to come into force, but maintain the situation in Surovatikha under observation via satellite) and sold. For garages—luxurious houses for "Zhigulis" and "Volgas" can be made from the "Satan's" fiberglass capsule—for silos, and for bridge works. The precious metals recovered from the missiles' instrument compartments—several kilograms of gold, silver, platinum, and platinum-group metals—go to refineries and the remainder, compressed into briquettes, goes to be melted down.

True, neither the officers nor the civilian staffers at the base see any money in return for this metal. It all remains with the organizations which guide the process of recycling the strategic missiles from Moscow, but the arsenal's workers have long since ceased to worry about this. They have grown accustomed to it.

The whole process of destroying a missile lasts 10 days. Last year 32 were destroyed, and this year they were to destroy 44—22 have already been cut up—but they realized that the plans needed to be modified since unexpected complications over the delivery of the missiles had arisen. Following long and not very straightforward negotiations with Kazakhstan, missiles were sent simultaneously from Zhangiz-Tobe and Derzhavinsk—around 30 are arriving. New reception areas must be prepared, and this takes time. Therefore the base will be able to dismantle only a further 14 "Satan" missiles before 1 January of next year. And there is enough work here for around 10 years, if not more.

It would be possible to cut up the heavy missiles more quickly, but this would require specialists, premises, instruments, and funds, and there are none. Western aid for our strategic disarmament is for some reason arriving late.

Next to the forest in Surovatikha three charming two-story cottages for future inspectors have already been roofed; their empty window frames look out onto the arsenal's compound, but at least 1 billion rubles are required to finish their construction.

Is it perhaps for this reason that our State Duma still cannot make up its mind to discuss the START II treaty?

Contract Hire Helping To Bolster Civil Defense Forces

MM2208085594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 94 Weekend Edition p 5

[Article by Andrey Kirillov: "SOS Team Always Ready for Anything"]

[Excerpts] It is an unprecedented event: Major troop formations have been redirected toward purely peaceful needs. Civil defense has moved out from under the wing

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of the military department, it has changed "doctrine," begun recruiting people into its units on a contract basis, and ultimately has decided to mutate into a force of rescue troops capable of giving real help to those suffering in emergency situations, and not just clearing up their effects, in any corner of Russia. And not only in Russia....

Although Russia's Civil Defense troops have existed for many years now, they are referred to by numerous terms today: rescue troops, liquidators, "emergency special-purpose forces." All three are close to the truth. Because no two operations in which they have to participate are ever alike, and this means that, each time, they require a special approach, special tactics and strategy. [passage omitted]

Colonel Yevgeniy Nikoforov, chief of the operations directorate of the Civil Defense Troops Staff, lays before me a summary of the day's events and lists the places where Civil Defense units have been deployed so far. They have been involved: in clearing flood waters in the area of the Terlyanskiy reservoir; in Belgorod Oblast, where obstructions on a railroad are being investigated in the wake of train derailments; in the Transcaucasus and the Far East—in helping to put out massive forest fires; in Leningrad Oblast—the same; and in Dagestan, where decontamination devices were deployed along with a military pumping station for the purposes of disinfecting water. Only recently Civil Defense bomb-disposal crews went to Kaluga Oblast and to the Smolensk area to defuse aviation bombs left there since the war. What will tomorrow bring?

According to Yevgeniy Nikoforov, come what may, the mobile units require just one hour to assemble, after which they are in full gear and ready to head for the site of an emergency situation. By plane, helicopter, road transport, cross-country vehicle—you name it. The only thing is that there is no letup. It is difficult to imagine that today, for the whole of our huge territory, there are just 15,000 Civil Defense troops "under arms." In a perfect world, between five and 10 times more would be required....

They get around this by stepping up mobility. Right now in Russia, on the initiative of Minister S. Shoygu, the creation of rapid-reaction civil defense units is under way, and the servicemen in them are switching to a contract basis. In all there are around 30 mobile divisions, which shoulder the main burden in disaster areas.

The work these men do is very serious. They are on mission several times a year. Undoubtedly this work is not only worthy of respect but well paid too.

On this score, Colonel Nikoforov has his own view. Service on a contract basis today is valued at roughly 200-250,000 rubles. Plus "rations." In all, this comes to something in the region of 300,000. Is that a lot, or not? Of course, it is not much. For which reason, it turns out, in regions where there is steady employment for the population and corresponding wages, there is no particular desire to serve on a contract basis in the Civil Defense troops. It is another matter where unemployment has become an everyday phenomenon. In those places, there is no problem with recruitment. [passage omitted]

The mobile Civil Defense units operate not only within the borders of Russia. They have to their credit experience of work on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and a transport division has been involved in offering humanitarian aid in Tanzania for three months already. Strange though it may seem, these missions are deemed the most prestigious for the rescuers, and wages are paid in hard currency. Thus, in rescuing others, the troops have the opportunity to help themselves a little. This is nothing unusual; rather it is the norm for us.... [passage omitted]

Border Troops Maritime Section Titles Changed

MM2308104594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1690 "On Making Changes to the Specification and Design of Flags, Pennants, and Designation Markings of Russian Federation Border Troops Warships, Vessels, and Auxiliary Craft as Confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 720, Dated 21 May 1993," signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and dated 15 August 1994, the Kremlin]

[Text] In connection with the creation of a federal border service under the Russian Federation Main Command of Border Troops, I resolve:

1. To make the following changes to the specification and design of flags, pennants, and designation markings of Russian Federation Border Troops warships, vessels, and auxiliary craft confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Decree No. 720, dated 21 May 1993:

In Paragraph 1, Section B, the word "commander" is to be replaced by the words "commander in chief":

In Paragraph 2, Section B, the words "deputy commander of the Russian Federation Border Troops in charge of the maritime component" is to be replaced by the words "commander of the Russian Federation Border Troops' Maritime Forces."

2. This edict enters into force from the moment of its promulgation.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

The Kremlin, Moscow,

15 August 1994

State Defense Order Reduced Fivefold Since 1991

MM2308091094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 1

[Report from ITAR-TASS, POSTFACTUM, PRAVDA column: "...But Where Is the Money?"]

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[Text] The state defense order has been reduced by a factor of more than five since the end of 1991. The state order for armaments and military equipment was cut by 67-68 percent at a stroke in early 1992, and a further 33 percent of the state order for 1993 was not implemented because of the deterioration in the economic situation in the country.

Criticisms Over Arms Production Cuts Rebutted

MM2308111594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Information and Press Directorate: "The Public Should Know the Truth"]

[Text] In connection with the publication by the DELO newspaper (No. 33, August of this year) of an article by the famous journalist and economist Otto Latsis entitled "Flood of Unpaid Debts," the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Information and Press Directorate is bringing to the public's attention some information about the real state of affairs as regards the production of defense hardware, defense scientific research work, and the formation and implementation of the state defense order.

The state defense order for 1994 was officially approved according to the established procedure by a Russian Federation government decree dated 21 December 1993 in accordance with specific volumes of government funding. Furthermore, it is being definitively formed and submitted to the government by the Ministry of the Economy. So the state order for weapons and military hardware is not by any means being drawn up just by the Ministry of Defense, as the article states. Moreover, the state defense order includes the needs of a number of other departments too—the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Border Troops, the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency, and so on.

In accordance with the State Order ratified by the government, all contracts concluded with industrial enterprises by general clients from the Ministry of Defense indicate that these contracts will be amplified following the adoption of the law on the federal budget.

At the beginning of 1992 the order for weapons and military hardware was reduced through government decisions by an average of 67-68 percent (compared with 1991). No other country in the world has seen such a one-shot reduction. After this, the government adopted decisions to keep it at this level in 1993. But because of the deterioration in the country's economic situation these decisions were not implemented. By the end of the year the 1993 order was adjusted—by being reduced by 33 percent.

As a result, in comparable prices, purchases of weapons and military hardware have fallen by over fivefold in comparison with 1991.

So there is no question of weapons production being maintained at the previous high level, much less being increased, as O. Latsis writes in his article.

The list of equipment being ordered has been reduced as follows: aircraft—to one-third, missiles—to one-half, artillery—to one-half, and so on.

During the first eight months of 1994 the state defense order has constantly been underfunded. As of 1 August, the volume of the Defense Ministry's underfunding in terms of purchases of weapons and military hardware and research and development, recognized by the Ministry of Finance, was 2.3 trillion rubles within the framework of the volume of allocations ratified by law.

At present, by decision of Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin and Russian Federation Government Chairman V.S. Chernomyrdin, work is being conducted to eliminate the state debt to enterprises which are carrying out the defense order.

O. Latsis' claims about the lack of reform in the Armed Forces are false too. The numerical strength of the Russian Federation Armed Forces is being reduced in accordance with plans and schedules ratified by the Russian state leadership. Unfortunately, the Program for the Construction of Housing for Servicemen, which also has a direct bearing on their reform and which was ratified by the government, is not being carried out because of insufficient funding.

Information about these questions has been presented by the Ministry of Defense to organs of the press on several occasions and is accessible to everyone.

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Yaroslavl

LD2108103994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 21 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nelly Grigoryan and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Yaroslavl August 21 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived here today for a two-day visit. He will attend today a divine service at the Tolga convent, devoted to the 680th anniversary of its founding. The service will be conducted by Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy the second. On Monday the prime minister will familiarize himself with the situation in the local industrial sector.

"I am ready to analyze in detail all the problems of the city and region," he told TASS after arriving in Yaroslavl. It is his first visit to the city.

The Yaroslavl region is facing the same problems as Russia in general, Yaroslavl Governor Anatoliy Lisitsin said in an interview with TASS. The head of the executive power of the region is going to submit for the consideration of Chernomyrdin two local programs: a

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program of housing construction for the central regions of Russia, including for the refugees who continue to come there, and a program of the readjustment of two major motor-producing plants of Yaroslavl, so that they will produce diesel motors for buses. There are other matters that the governor would like to discuss with the prime minister.

Promises 'Support'

MM2308100194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Yuriy Bakhrin: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: We Will Hold Out If We Are Together"]

[Text] Yaroslavl—The Russian premier has gone on a working visit to Yaroslavl Oblast.

Speaking beforehand about working contacts on Yaroslavl soil, the Russian premier admitted that he was interested in how reforms were being conducted here. The problems of the regions as a whole are known to him, but, Viktor Stepanovich stressed in a conversation with journalists, "today the oblast has interesting, individual programs and I would like to familiarize myself with them and support them."

This was undoubtedly a promising start for the Yaroslavl inhabitants, although on the eve of the government chairman's visit the local leadership stated that it did not intend to ask the high-ranking guest for money. Of course, this was a piece of cunning, to put it mildly. Every one of the programs being examined by Viktor Chernomyrdin in Yaroslavl demands considerable outside investment.

As was noted during the government leader's visit to the Novoyaroslavskiy oil refinery, the problem of its reconstruction is practically settled: It will be done with Japanese credits under Russian Government guarantee, that is, in actual fact, by increasing our national debt to foreign countries. However, this project promises to pay for itself, and it will be the actual plant that repays the debts, moreover in the shortest time. So our grandchildren will not have to pay for today's credits. And the results of the modernization will be seen by those who are alive today—the town's environment will improve considerably.

It will be harder to justify another project, which has been persistently supported by the Yaroslavl leaders but which has received a negative assessment from experts at the "Gaydar Institute" and has been skeptically assessed by government analysts. This is the so called "Phoenix project." A West European construction company is proposing to launch the construction of individual housing in the oblast, funded from a direct state loan from France. Also under Russian Government guarantee.

The questions discussed with the oblast leaders also included a proposal by the Yaroslavl inhabitants to elaborate a mechanism, based on their example, for transferring the social sphere from the balance sheet of enterprises to the balance sheet of the local organs of power, so that this practice could then be extended to the whole country. This is undoubtedly a painful problem, and a solution is pretty much overdue: Housing, boiler houses, and sewage treatment works have become a burden on plants and factories. Even last year small enterprises started simply abandoning housing, while others, conducting reorganizations and changing the form of ownership, are striking "consumer facilities" off their property.

Describing the situation in Yaroslavl Oblast, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that by and large it reflects the state of affairs in Russia. This region has the same problems as others, although practically none of the enterprises is standing idle today, and average earnings are around 170,000 rubles in industry and 97,000 in rural work—perhaps the highest in the country. The oblast's leaders are conducting an active social policy, and they have managed to regulate targeted protection for the poorer strata of society.

Khasbulatov in 'Confident Advance' Toward Power

MM2308092994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Khasbulatov Pursues Power, This Time in Chechnya"]

[Text] Stavropol—Having recovered from the accusations of betraying national interests and planning to bring order to Chechnya with the help of Russian soldiers, Ruslan Khasbulatov is continuing to win points rapidly in his native republic.

From the moment he arrived in Groznyy this time he managed to "wise up," "forgetting" the subject of unification with Russia, currently unpopular in Chechnya, and diplomatically dissociating himself from Avturkhanov's Interim Council, which does not enjoy high prestige in Chechnya. Dudayev's entourage, which hastily wrote off the disgraced son of the Chechen people in political terms following the curses thrown at him at the nationwide congress of Chechnya 10 August, did not throw him out of the republic by force. And today it is making desperate and fruitless attempts to stop the confident advance of the "enemy of the nation" through the cities and villages.

Last weekend at a big rally near the city of Shali, Khasbulatov stated that the next meeting of the opposition forces would be held 25 August in Groznyy. R. Labazanov, head of an influential armed group, and other opposition figures have already announced their support for the new leader.

Alarmed by the concentration of opposition forces, last Saturday D. Dudayev issued an edict reestablishing the legislative activity of the republic's parliament. But this

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belated step will scarcely have any effect on the disposition of forces, which is not in his favor.

The main argument—about Russian aggression—which has hitherto always come to the Chechen Republic president's assistance at the most dramatic moments, has also been put forward. At a sitting of the security council on Sunday Dudayev noted that Russia has intervened on the territory of a sovereign republic. This was based on some information from the state security department to the effect that 30 armored vehicles accompanied by mercenaries and Russian instructors had been brought into Nadterechnyy Rayon. As in the good old days for Dudayev, thousands of defenders of the fatherland started to gather for a rally on the square outside the presidential palace.

However, there is reason to believe that the present sea of people under the president's windows does not instill the previous optimism in Dzhokhar Musayevich. He understands that the presence behind his back of an experienced politician who has long dreamed of depriving Dudayev of the presidency is capable of rocking this force and even sending it to storm the presidential palace. Unless of course the Kremlin, for whom Dudayev's replacement by Khasbulatov would mean the most gloomy predictions coming true, intervenes in the process of the division of power in Chechnya.

Denies Coveting Chechen Presidency

LD1908180094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Groznyy, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—"I am not trying to become the president or other leader of the Chechen Republic and remain outside politics," Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian Parliament, told ITAR-TASS. He also said the main goal of the peacemaking group he has created is to ensure a peaceful transition of power without the introduction of Russian troops or the forcible overthrow of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev. "I reject any scenario for removing the ruling regime which might entail bloodshed," Khasbulatov said. He believes that if Russian troops were to invade, all armed groupings, including the opposition, would unite in the face of the external threat and civil war would inevitably ensue.

"My fear is that both Dzhokhar Dudayev and interim council head Umar Avturkhanov are spoiling for a fight, and I am doing all I can to prevent it from happening," Khasbulatov said. "If I had agreed to get involved, as leaders of several armed groupings asked me to, then Dzhokhar Dudayev would have already been removed. But I will not do this, because there are no guarantees that there will not be bloodshed." Khasbulatov added that he has been visited by the leaders of many armed formations, some members of the current government, clergymen, and representatives of the armed forces.

A rally held in Urus-Martan on Thursday 18 August passed a resolution demanding that Dzhokhar Dudayev set up a commission before 25 August for a peaceful transition of power to temporary interim [as received] bodies. It was also proposed that all armed formations enter into agreements with Khasbulatov's peacemaking group on the non-use of weapons. Another proposal made was to call a popular congress of the Chechen Republic in the near future to elect authorities for a period of transition, and to create before 24 August peacemaking groups in all populated areas of the Chechen Republic.

Says Moscow Plans 'Puppet Regime'

LD2208122694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] President Dzhokhar Dudayev does not control anything in Chechnya besides several armed formations, ex-speaker of Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, now in Chechnya, said in an interview with Interfax.

Khasbulatov said he believes the republic has been surviving both economically and socially the past three years only due to the hard work of those who live there.

Khasbulatov said that prior to recent events certain Russian politicians had been providing support for Dzhokhar Dudayev. "Otherwise, he would never have remained in power for three years," Khasbulatov said.

Khasbulatov said he believes that Russian top officials recently lost faith in the Chechen president.

Khasbulatov said he believes that Moscow has new plans now: to establish a puppet regime in Chechnya.

"Within this context, the danger for Chechnya and the entire North Caucases of the introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya is not an exaggeration," Khasbulatov added. He said he believes that the situation in the North Caucases on the whole and, in particular in Chechnya, cannot be analyzed from Moscow.

Chechnya Accuses Russia of 'Preparing for Occupation'

LD2208161894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1537 GMT 22 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug—Despite the firm statements of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders that Moscow rules out strong-arm methods of solving the Chechnya problem, official Groznyy today once again accused Russia of "preparing for occupation."

An "appeal of the Chechen republic-Ichkoriya foreign ministry" to the peoples, governments, and parliaments

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of Islamic states, which has been issued by the Chechen-press agency, claims that Russia is transferring tanks and other equipment to the Nadterechnyy rayon.

Reliable sources in Moscow explained to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that these claims "are an absolute fabrication."

Official Fears Russian 'Invasion'

BR2208144694 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 19 Aug 94 p 5

[Report on interview with Aslambek Kadijev, Chechen president's special emissary, by Peter Michielsen; place and date not given: "Moscow Looking Mainly For a Precedent in the Chechen Republic Dispute"]

[Text] Aslambek Kadiyev is sure: The Russian invasion of the Chechen Republic is coming. All those observers who think that Russia is arming the opponents of Chechen President Dudayev so that they can do their dirty work, i.e., drive away Dudayev, are wrong.

Aslambek Kadiyev is a friendly young man wearing a suit that is much too big and that hangs loosely around him. He is the special representative of President Dayokhar Dudayev, the rebel general who in 1991 unilaterally proclaimed the independence of the Chechen Republic. He is now in the Netherlands, on his way from Geneva, lobbying, he says, for the Chechen issue: "We are a long way away, and nobody knows about us."

"The Russians," he says, "increased their troop strength around the Chechen Republic fivefold last week." "We are surrounded. To the south is Georgia, but the southern border comprises high mountains. We are surrounded. An absolute blockade." "The invasion will come," he said, "the only thing is that the Russians cannot just invade, that would cost too many lives and the world would not accept it. Russia would lose democratic face. Nor can it unleash the opposition, which it is arming and financing, on Dudayev, because the opposition is much too weak for that. What it can do, however, is force a conflict between Dudayev and the opposition. At that point, the opposition will call on Moscow to help it, and then the Russians will invade under the pretext of 'establishing peace' and 'keeping warring factions apart.' The world will not protest about that."

Kadiyev is proud of his little country in the Northern Caucasus, half the size of the Netherlands and a population of 1.6 million. "It proclaimed independence on 6 September 1991. It was the first country in the Soviet Union from which the Russians withdrew their military personnel and leaders. And now we are the masters of our aid sources, especially our oil. Our oil is much better than Siberian oil. The Chechen Republic is the Kuwait of the former Soviet Union."

Kadiyev's country is generally not taken seriously in the international media. The media talks about a Caucasus operetta, portraying the Chechen Republic as a mountainous country of lawlessness and bandits, a smugglers den of clans and hooligans, where everyone carries weapons, with 80 percent unemployment, industry that has come to a standstill, a country out of a slapstick film that is very far away, led by an anemic looking dictator with a pencil line mustache who is constantly crying that the KGB wants to blow him up, and who, despite the oil wealth, has not been able to pay his people wages or pensions for nine months.

Kadiyev sighs. "All the news about the Chechen Republic comes via Moscow, via the Russian media, and Russian press agencies. It is propaganda, which the Russians are using to try and justify their aggression: The Chechens are all horrible criminals. That is not true. The oil industry works, the petrochemical industry works. Our economic situation is bad, but that is the case everywhere in the former Soviet Union, and ours is better than Russia's. It is only bad because Russia has set up an economic blockade and has surrounded us militarily. And if we cannot pay wages, it is because we pay with Russian rubles and we are not getting any more rubles from Russia."

The talk about lawlessness is also nonsense, Kadiyev said: "It is calmer in the Chechen Republic than in Moscow. You never hear about the lawlessness in Russia, but so far this year in Moscow alone there have been 65 bomb explosions, 165 foreigners kidnapped, and five killed. All they talk about is the bus hijackings on our Northern border, where Russian citizens of Chechen origin are involved, and the so-called Chechen mafia. But Moscow alone has eight mafias.

"Moscow," he said, "is showing signs of a fascist ideology when it calls one nation more criminal than another. If Americans of Italian origin commit crimes, the White House does not blame Italy, does it?"

"As for President Dudayev, it is by turns claimed that he still has only three districts and the capital of Grozny, that he only has Groznv, and that he only controls part of Grozny. That is also propaganda," Kadiyev said, "the Chechen Republic has 19 districts. The only district that Dudayev does not control is Nadterechny, in the West. That is the district the last communist party leader driven out by Dudayev came from and where his clan lives, which, since 1991, has lost all high-level jobs."

That district is the home of the "Temporary Council," the Russian supported countergovernment of Dudayev's rival, Umar Avtortchanov. "If Dudayev wanted to, he could occupy Nadterechny. He does not want to, however, because he does not want any bloodshed." "The two other wings of the opposition, the group of 28-year-old rambo Ruslan Labazanov and Jarogi Mamodayev's "government of the people's confidence" offer nothing," Kadiyev said. "Labazanov is not even pro-Russian, and the only person in that so-called government is Mamodayev himself." The newest player on the Chechen political stage, Ruslan Chasbulatov, former

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deputy speaker of the Russian parliament and a private citizen since Yeltsin kicked him and his parliament out of the White House last year, is taken just as seriously by Kadiyev: "He is in the Chechen Republic because he wants to get his name back in the Russian papers. He wants power in Moscow and, by showing his face in Grozny, he can get back in the news."

According to all Russian propaganda, he sighed, "We are supposedly not democratic, but they have not managed in three years to name one single political prisoner. Moreover we have a multiparty parliament. They say Dudayev appointed himself president, but he was democratically elected from among three candidates. International observers and the international media were there, and no complaint was made."

On the other hand, Dudayev blames the KGB for the series of assassination attempts without ever providing any evidence of this. "Listen, the KGB is the best espionage service in the world. We are just amateurs. If our Chechenian opponents had committed attacks then we would have found evidence. You cannot keep something secret among us. We are a small country. Everyone knows everyone else. At the last attack against Dudayev in May, Dudayev's armored Mercedes was thrown 10 meters through the air. Do you really think that they could make that kind of bomb here in the Chechen Republic?"

"With the Russians, their actions against Dudayev and Chechen independence is not primarily about oil," Kadiyev said, "it is much more about the precedent we are setting. We are the only of Russia's 89 regions which has proclaimed independence. Many autonomous republics, especially those in the northern Caucasus, are following the developments very closely. That is why Moscow wants to put an end to our independence: To prevent something even worse."

"At the same time, it is a great danger for Russia," he said, "all the North Caucasus peoples support us. The whole North Caucasus Confederation (in which the autonomous republics on the Northern edge of the Caucasus and Chechenia have united—NRC HANDELSBLAD editor's note) support us. They have offered us volunteers if things turn violent. An invasion of the Chechen Republic would lead to a major war in the Caucasus. All those countries would help us."

"Russian success is not at all guaranteed," he said, "because the Chechens will defend their independence stubbornly, and they know how to fight. You fought 80 years for your independence. So we are not giving our fight up after just three years." Aslambek Kadiyev straightens out his jacket, his much too large jacket, and laughs, very pleased.

Ossetia, Ingushetia Protest Attempt To Ban Flights

LD2208153894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 22 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—The provisional administration, which runs the emergency situation regime covering part of the territory of the North Ossetian and Ingush Republics, released a statement on Monday protesting Chechnya's attempt to ban flights to the Sleptsovskaya airport (on Ingush territory).

The statement, released by the provisional administration's press-centre, said that the airport management had received a "disrespectful" note signed by the deputy commander in chief of the Chechen Armed Forces, N. Dugayev. The Chechen note repeated Chechnya's threat to force planes flying to the Sleptsovskaya airport to land in Groznyy, the capital of Chechnya.

The press centre's statement emphasized that "the right to determine when and which airplanes can fly to a sovereign republic of the Russian Federation belongs exclusively to the Government of the Russian Federation and that republic." The statement says that the activity of Chechnya's military commanders in the territory bordering on the emergency situation zone is dangerous and provocative.

The north caucasus region needs not a demonstration of "determination and power," but unwavering efforts to spare the peoples of north caucasus fear of tomorrow and to return peace and goodneighborliness to those lands, the press centre's statement says.

Chechnya's Nadterechnyy District Remains Calm

LD2208151394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Znamenskoye August 22 TASS—The situation in Chechnya's opposition controlled Nadterechnyy district remains calm, Ruslan Mardagov, the spokesman for the anti-Dudayev Provisional Council, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Local authorities have started to pay pensions owed to the population for March and April 1994. Schoolteachers are getting their wages for April-July, and doctors and employees are paid for June and July of this year.

The self-styled district is continuing to form its own militia. The volunteers are sent to military training camps.

Dudayev Reinforces Groznyy City Defenses

LD2208133294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Chechnya continues to be complicated. Recruitment of a home guard continues in Nadterechnyy rayon, controlled by Chechnya's Interim Council. According to ITAR-TASS, 30-40 men are being enrolled every day. Although the guards are paid an allowance of up to R100,000, most of them say they are

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not in it for the money but to depose Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime. The Interim Council's press center says that the armed forces loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev today set up a post in the vicinity of Chernorechenskiy village near Groznyy. It is guarded by armor and an antiaircraft battery.

According to the Interim Council, the Groznyy authorities fear that opposition forces will attempt to enter the city from that direction and seize power. [video shows soldiers sitting on APC, civilians filing into room, glimpse of Dudayev, APCs and antiaircraft battery on city street, copies of Interim Council statements]

Opposition Rally To Demand Dudayev Resignation

LD2208123894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Chechen's Provisional Council, opposed to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, has urged its supporters to prepare for a rally outside the Presidential Palace in Groznyy on August 25.

A spokesman for the council, based at Znamenskoy, a village in Chechnya's Nadterechnyy region, told INTERFAX Monday that no less than 100,000 wished to come to demand Dudayev's immediate resignation.

The Provisional Council spokesman reported that over the past weekend the council's leader Umar Avturkhanov had toured several regions in Chechnya, "where he was accorded a cordial welcome and pledged full support." There has been positive response in the republic to the payment, for the second time over the last month, of wages and pensions delayed to residents of the Nadterechnyy region.

On contacts between the council and the Chechnya-based ex-speaker of Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, the spokesman confirmed such consultations, however, declined to give any further detail. In any event, in his words, the upcoming rally in Groznyy "will be attended by representatives of all movements who are opposed to Dudayev's rule."

Chechen Leadership Urges Caucasian Peoples To Unite

LD2208122494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] The Chechen leadership called on the Caucasian peoples, Russians and Cossacks to unite in order to prevent a second Russian- Caucasian war.

An Interfax correspondent reports that this statement by Chechen leaders, being circulated in North Caucasian republics today, claims that "Russia's reactionary circles are devising a wide-scale provocation against Chechnya into which other Caucasian peoples will inevitably be sucked in." The statement points to the concentration of troops and armored equipment in the North Caucases and, especially, along the Chechen borders as proof of the imminent aggression.

The Chechen leadership calls on servicemen in the Russian army to "stop in time and refuse to be used in dirty political games."

The apparatus of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev told Interfax that volunteers who had fought in Abkhazia are arriving in Chechnya. About 200 people have already come, according to those close to Dudayev.

Opposition Reports Outbreak of Cholera

LD2208150294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1240 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] We are continuing to monitor the development of the situation in the Republic of Chechnya. Speaking to our correspondent Anton Zharov, is Khamid Khatuyev, the CHECHEN-PRESS director.

[Begin recording] [Khatuyev] At present a meeting is continuing in Groznyy. It is being attended by many thousands of people who support President Dzhokhar Dudayev. The speakers are appealing to all those who are trying to split the Chechen people, and to introduce chaos and disturbances, to lay down their weapons. But reports are arriving from various parts of the republic that the supporters of Umar Avturkhanov and Ruslan Khasbulatov have no intention of a dialogue. Yesterday and today Russian APCs [armored personnel carriers] have been seen on the roads of the republic.

[Zharov] Excuse me, why it is assumed that they are Russian?

[Khatuyev] They are driving about in the open and they are not disguising themselves at all. They are simply Russian APCs with Russian mercenaries riding in the open. They travelled yesterday from Nadterechnyy Rayon to Urus-Martan.

It should be noted that a meeting of the opposition's forces has been planned to be held in Groznyy on 25 August. It is expected that tension in the republic will increase all the time.

Dhokhar Dudayev, when speaking yesterday at the Security Council, said officially that Russia has actually launched an intervention into the territory of the sovereign Republic of Chechnya.

Today the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Chechnya appealed to the parliaments of Islamic states to demand from Russia that it stops its aggression against the Chechen Republic. [end recording]

I would like to remind you that this was a report by the government CHECHEN-PRESS news agency, which was reported by its director Khamid Khatuyev.

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Now we have a report from the village of Znamenskoye in Nadterechnyy Rayon of Chechnya where the opposition interim council of the republic is based. Our correspondent Anton Zharov contacted Ruslan Martagov, the interim council's press secretary.

[Begin Martagov recording] There have been no substantial changes during the past 24 hours. Having found out that the opposition plans to hold a meeting in Groznyy on 25 August, official Groznyy decided to cut off the center of the city where the meeting is planned to be held. To achieve this, armored vehicles and personnel have been positioned on the immediate approaches to the center. In the central square in front of the presidential palace a meeting has been staged again. According to its organizers, the rally will try to hold out at least until 25 August to prevent the opposition holding a meeting there. But the number of people who have already gathered there are embarrassing Dudayev and his team. The rally can gather at the best of times, in the evening, only some 3,000 people.

Four persons have already died from cholera in the settlement of Engel-Yurt in Gudermesskiy Rayon. Official authorities have prohibited the sanitary-epidemic station to reveal that these people have died from cholera. The cholera story is being presented as a provocation of Moscow against the sovereign and independent Republic of Chechnya-Ichkeriya, in inverted commas. That is all the news. [end recording]

Militia To Help Prevent Pilfering of Potato Crop

MM2208124594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Skorolupov: "Under the Protection of Mounted Militia"]

[Text] Moscow Oblast—The potato fields in the Moscow area are getting busier and busier. A lot of fans of the second staple have come here with rucksacks and bags, by car and on foot, although it is still a bit early to pick it—the tubers have not ripened yet. But this is not stopping the lovers of "piratization"—everyone is aiming to feed themselves for free. The pilfering raids are costing the local farmers dear. Certain farms have tried to form a volunteer guard. But its forces were clearly insufficient to avert the daylight robbery.

The militia has come to the assistance of the farmers. Hundreds of the oblast's Ministry of Internal Affairs staffers are taking part in the "Harvest-94" operation. Even Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov intends to send 200 guardians of the law, including a detachment of mounted militia, to the farmers' assistance.

Moscow Detectives' Chief on Crime Situation

MM2308084694 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Viktor Golovanov, acting chief of the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department, by Aleksandr Danilkin in Moscow; date not given: "The Superintendent From Petrovka.... Solving the Most Notorious Killings Mainly Requires Time; the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department Staffers Have Everything Else They Need"]

[Text] A decade ago, any mention of the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department was accompanied by adjectives like "legendary," "heroic," or "illustrious." Many books have been written and dozens of movies made about the department. Today, in the department's gloomy corridors, you will not run into a film crew as before, or find yourself face to face with a well-known actor dressed in militia uniform for filming. You may read something about the "superintendent from Petrovka" in the crime reports, that is all, and schoolchildren no longer write compositions saying that they want to be famous detectives....

The Moscow Criminal Investigations Department today has 400 "warriors," and it is like a worn-out workhorse, still "plowing" from dawn to dusk. Viktor Golovanov, acting chief of the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department, when asked what distinguishes his people from others, replied briefly: "Professionalism and loyalty to tradition."

[Danilkin] Viktor Vladimirovich, nowadays virtually all crime seems to be turning into organized crime. There is a directorate for combating organized crime. So what is left for the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department?

[Golovanov] We do not have to share out the work with our colleagues. We are involved in all recorded cases, and we work from the crime to the criminal. Unlike the subunits for combating organized crime and for combating economic crimes—they work on the principle "from the criminal to the crime." If a criminal case is on record, it means criminal investigations apply to it.

[Danilkin] In your view, what form of crime worries people most today?

[Golovanov] I think it is crimes of which they themselves could be possible victims. Do you remember, early this year, how the episode of the elevator murders of women dressed in fur coats caused such a stir in Moscow? There were four victims. Despite the criminal's caution, all the same we figured it out and caught him. And I am sure that by so doing we saved several lives.

[Danilkin] Remind us about that criminal—why was it so difficult to catch him?

[Golovanov] He was a 19-year-old who lived in Sumy, and he had a record. We arrested him on 15 February, and he was intending to get married on 19 February. He used to make the trip to Moscow periodically....

[Danilkin] So how would you actually describe the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department in 1994?

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[Golovanov] It is still the place where the most highly skilled criminal investigations staffers are concentrated, people who, despite difficult times, do their duty honestly and professionally. Perestroyka changed much in people's way of thinking, but the real detectives who work here will never say: "It's seven o'clock, I'm going home—the working day is over." They still work around the clock, just as they used to.

People say that "the mafia is immortal," but the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department is eternal. The traditions live on. All who come to work here know that they will never earn palaces, only headaches. They do still hand out military orders here, and bonuses too, but for the most part it is gloomy, thankless work. But it has its moments... I have been working on murder cases for 10 years now, but when we solve a really tough murder, your knees tremble with delight, you feel so pleased!

[Danilkin] Ten years ago nobody could have imagined that such a wave of crime would hit us....

[Golovanov] In 1985 I was involved in the case of a gang that was eventually convicted of gangsterism. It is regarded as prestigious nowadays to "hand out" as many articles on gangsterism as possible. At that time it was exceptional. The gang had carried out four murders and a number of violent robberies—well, I thought, you come across something like that once in your life. Incidentally, the gang's "feats" included a major robbery from the Gorkiy Movie Studio—they took all the wardrobe clothes, they even made away with a coat belonging to the actor Vyacheslav Tikhonov (or rather, one of his characters). Experience now shows that gangsterism has become a mass phenomenon.

[Danilkin] Along with contract killings. They are hard to crack....

[Golovanov] I want to point out straight away that the press does not always tell the truth when it writes that not a single contract killing has been solved in Moscow. Dozens of contract killings have already been solved. It is another matter that everyone wants the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department to announce that it has solved the murder of Kvantrishvili or the banker Likhachev, for instance. Yes, I agree: We cannot yet boast of solving murders at that level. But there are equally complicated contract killings of people who may simply be less well known to the public. But they have been solved, and brilliantly at that! Let us not forget that in world experience it has taken years to solve particularly notorious crimes. Incidentally, we have just now solved one highly notorious murder committed a year ago. We know the name of the man who committed that crime. Every step has been taken to arrest the killer....

[Danilkin] It is fashionable to talk about political killings, ritual killings, killings for the purpose of selling human organs abroad for transplantation. Have you come across such cases in your criminal investigations experience?

[Golovanov] I cannot recall anything like that. Arriving at the scene of the crime and finding an organ has already been cut from the body.... It's rubbish.

[Danilkin] But crime from other cities in the capital is very much real, and it adds a great deal to the detectives' work.

[Golovanov] It is a big problem for Moscow. The criminal fraternity congregates here like bees round a honeypot. There is money to be made here, and it is easy to lose yourself. The president's edict on combating gangsterism has been a great help to us in this situation, it enables us to tackle out-of-town crime too. Similar edicts were adopted earlier in Tataria [Tatarstan] and Mordovia, so all their scum came running to Moscow.

[Danilkin] It is almost impossible to solve "visiting" crimes without help from colleagues in the places where the criminals live. How are the men in gray overcoats from the former fraternal republics helping the Muscovites now?

[Golovanov] In various ways, but in most cases it all depends on personal contacts. In Azerbaijan, for instance, staffers of local law-enforcement organs are very helpful to us, but if a criminal is from Chechnya—forget it.

[Danilkin] Modern criminals are mobile people, even borders are nothing to them. How does the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department liaise with colleagues in the far abroad?

[Golovanov] At least it is easier now than flying to the moon. A year ago I was in the United States at a seminar on problems of premeditated killings. There were plenty of interesting things that we should take up.

[Danilkin] For instance?

[Golovanov] For instance, their scene-of-crime procedures. Beginning with something as elementary as guarding the site—this is only just being introduced in our country. How material evidence is removed, how it is handled, packaged, what kind of equipment is used. At the same time we have things to share with them, we have our own techniques.

[Danilkin] It is well known that detectives from the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department used to find it rather difficult, to put it mildly, to work in contact with their colleagues. What can you tell us now about the relationship between your subordinates and the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]?

[Golovanov] Today we are simply very grateful to them. Now they help us a lot with information and equipment. Contacts have recently become really excellent, I cannot remember a case of appealing to the FCS for help and being refused. On our own, we would have given up the ghost.

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[Danilkin] Given the existence of such opportunities, how quickly can a Moscow detective obtain information about an individual he is interested in?

[Golovanov] It all depends on the individual. If the person comes from a distant region, it takes a little longer, but if he is a Muscovite, and especially if he has ever fallen within the militia's field of vision previously—it takes five minutes at most.

[Danilkin] The Moscow Criminal Investigations Department has acquired not only new equipment, but new types of crimes to investigate. What are they?

[Golovanov] The main bulk are, of course, the "usual" crimes. But there are new ones too. For instance, formerly we did not come across entire districts of semi-underground brothels. A few cases of attempts to resell radioactive elements have been recorded. The number of weapons in circulation is beyond anything we could have imagined in the old days. And of course, the series of contract killings—they began to be a mass phenomenon about three years ago.

[Danilkin] Have you managed to track down the professional killers? Do they actually exist, or are they simply the inventions of newspapermen?

[Golovanov] Yes, we have more than once arrested people who had committed murders for money.

[Danilkin] You worked for quite a long time in the section dealing with premeditated killing. Have there been cases where you sympathized with the murderers?

[Golovanov] To be honest, yes, but only twice. One was when a young man killed a villain who had assaulted his girl, and the other was when the movie actor Georgiy Yumatov shot a man he hardly knew.... But you have to keep your feelings to yourself.

[Danilkin] Prior to the publication of the president's edict on combating organized crime, there were numerous accusations beforehand of human rights violations. More than a month has passed now—have such complaints been recorded at the Moscow Criminal Investigations Department?

[Golovanov] If they had existed, the press would not have lost the chance to report it. By all appearances, as yet there is nothing to report. The prosecutor's office is now monitoring this closely. And no evil new "secret police" thugs have sprung up in our ranks, eager to perpetrate outrages.

'Careless Handling' Caused Moscow Missile Accident

MM2308082794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Prasolov of the Moscow Air Defense District Press Center: "How Missile Transfer Crew Died"]

[Text] Around 1300 hours on 18 August at a technical battalion of an air defense missile regiment in the Moscow Air Defense District a surface-to-air missile engine ignited during planned loading and unloading work owing to careless handling of the weapon. A fire started in the missile engine and warhead storage area.

As a result of a series of explosions a missile transfer crew comprising Warrant Officer V.A. Borodulin and Private A.A. Shigorev were killed. Crane operator Private N.I. Gerasimov has not been found. The explosions destroyed a technical installation. No local inhabitants were hurt, and there was no damage to the environment.

A commission of representatives of the General Staff, the Air Defense Troops Main Staff, and military counterintelligence has visited the scene of the tragedy. Engineering work is under way to restore elements of combat order in the technical battalion. The combat engineers will have to destroy the remains of the solid-fuel boosters collected at the scene of the fire.

Major Renovation, Expansion of Nakhodka Port Begins

OW2308010594 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 22 Aug 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] The Nakhodka commercial port, the largest in the eastern part of the country, has begun large-scale reconstruction work with the help of foreign specialists. The widening of the harbor has been started by engineers from Russian, German, and Japanese companies. The foreign port construction specialists, in collaboration with their Russian colleagues, are faced with the task of extending the wharves by several dozen meters out to sea. Powerful dredgers will carry out harbor deepening work, permitting the berths of the renovated port to receive ocean-going cargo ships with a displacement of up to 100,000 tonnes.

The widening of the ports in the Far East was brought about by the fact that with the abolition of the USSR, Russia lost unhindered access to many harbors in the Baltic and Black Seas. As a result of this, the main flow of freight has been redirected to the Pacific Ocean. At present, the Nakhodka wharves alone process a quarter of all of Russia's cargoes. The reconstruction of the commercial port will allow a significant increase in the volume of cargo and make Nakhodka the leading harbor in the Asia-Pacific region.

Army Cuts Compound Maritime Kray Industry's Problems

MM2208132194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Andrey Gavrilenko: "Maritime Kray Industry 'Prostrate'"]

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[Text] Vladivostok—Over 12,000 unemployed were registered in Maritime Kray early in August. Another 1,000 "ex"-workers join this "line" every month. A particularly grave situation has developed in population centers where military-industrial complex enterprises and troop units are sited. Mass cuts in servicemen mean that the camps' civilian population is left without work. And it takes money to preserve jobs. For instance, over 3 billion rubles [R] is needed to preserve 1,800 jobs at the "Askold" plant.

Vladimir Ignatenko, the Russian president's representative for Maritime Kray, frankly admits that "the kray's industry is...prostrate."

The Ministry of Defense owed Maritime Kray almost R82 billion in total as of 1 July 1994. Housing construction for servicemen discharged into the reserve is proceeding with incredible difficulty. The center owes R4.869 billion. While the main subunits of the Pacific Fleet and the Far East Military District owe R26 billion to enterprises in Maritime Kray that provide them with vital services (the "Dalenergo" Joint-Stock Company, etc).

Kuban Farm Lobby Hits 'Half-Wit' Reformers

MM2208114594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Yuliy Semenenko: "Kuban Agricultural Laborers Switch From Passive Protest to Positive Action"]

[Text] It was the people of the land who became the masters of Labor Square in Krasnodar yesterday—mechanics, livestock breeders, specialists, farmers. The policy of destroying the peasantry being pursued by the Russian Government is what summoned them there for a kray-level assembly. Addressing the assembly with passion and anger, representatives of the Agrarian Party, the Agrarian Union, agrarian factions in the State Duma, agriculture and food supply trade union personnel, and envoys from labor collectives talked about how agricultural producers in the country have been pushed to the brink of catastrophe. Production is dropping steadily and taxes and bank debts are increasing, as a result of which 70 percent of collective and private farms will find themselves bankrupt by 1 September at the whim of half-wit reformers. The agricultural infrastructure is being destroyed, the demographic situation is deteriorating with every passing day, and wages are being delayed for months on end. Even the little that the countryside is providing right now is not selling. At the same time, the go-ahead has in practice been given to food imports.

In a resolution adopted the Kubanites severely condemned the genocide against the Russian peasantry being perpetrated by the upper echelons of power and called on presidential and governmental structures to tailor the reforms, not in words but in reality, to the advantage of the peasantry and Russians in general. In order to do this, it is proposed first and foremost that investment, tax, and banking policy be radically reviewed, that duty-free food imports be abandoned, and that rural areas be protected at a social and cultural level. The Kubanites set a deadline for this of 1 October. Otherwise the Cossacks and all rural inhabitants of the kray will begin a vigorous campaign for an early presidential election and for the resignation of a government which over three years has shown its complete inability to pursue the country's national interests.

Will those currently relaxing in Sochi heed the voice of the representatives of Russia's main granary and meet up in their high Moscow offices?

Kazan Seeks Access to Sea, Signs Accord with Kaliningrad

MK2308095994 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 3

[Andrey Bagrov report: "Kazan and Ufa Want to Become Baltic Ports"]

[Text] "Russia's regions continue to restore the severed economic links," Tatarstan and Kaliningrad Oblast officials said, commenting on the prolongation till 1995 of the agreement "On Principles of Trade and Economic Cooperation Between the Republic of Tatarstan and Kaliningrad Oblast for 1993-1994," which took place over the weekend. True, the loud phrases about Russia's economic reunification do not overshadow the purely practical significance of this document for Kazan: Access for Tatar oil workers to open seas substantially weakens their dependence on the oil pipelines controlled by Moscow.

The agreement, extended for another year, contains a number of provisions which are fundamentally important for Tatarstan. First, the document provides for using Kaliningrad's sea, railway, and air transportation facilities in shipping Tatarstan's export and import cargoes (primarily crude oil and oil products). Second, participation by Tatarstan entities in building a port in Kaliningrad Oblast. The Kaliningrad authorities have signed a similar agreement with the government of Bashkortostan.

The previous 1.5 years have shown that the agreement has been totally ineffective: Kaliningrad has not received a single tonne of oil from Tatarstan while the building of the port is at the design stage. At the same time Tatarstan Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov and Kaliningrad Oblast administration chief Yuriy Matochkin stated their intention to implement all the accords completely. This however is hardly surprising: After all, the opening of an oil terminal on the Kama river and an oil processing plant in Nizhnekamsk has already created the Tatar part of an oil export infrastructure independent from the "Moscow" pipelines.

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Perm Oblast Pulls Out of Social Agreement Treaty

MK2308094594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Smirnov: "Protest by Perm Legislators. Region Decides to Take Its Time With Social Accord"]

[Text] As of yesterday, Perm Oblast is no party to the Treaty on Social Accord. Up to now, the parties and public movements only stated they would withdraw their signatures from this document if the federal authorities do not meet their demands. The oblast legislative assembly has made this unprecedented step over what Moscow takes special pride in—the establishment of a new relationship between the center and the regions.

Back in April, the oblast Legislative Assembly forwarded to both the chambers of the Federal Assembly a letter which drew the parliamentarians' attention to the practice of concluding agreements on the delimitation of powers with individual republics as out of keeping with the Constitution—the Fundamental Law in fact speaks about equality of the federation components. However, all the appeals to Moscow by the Perm legislators did not alter the center's attitude to the oblast. Finally, on 18 August, the Legislative Assembly voted 26 votes for and one against for withdrawing from the Treaty on Social Accord in protest against the prevailing situation. The patience of the region's parliamentarians was at an end. The reason is that the following situation took shape in the three southern rayons of the oblast—Kuyedinskiy, Chernushenskiy, and Oktyabrskiy. Residents of these rayons employed in agriculture and oil production, repeatedly complained to the local organs of power about having to take trips for food to neighboring Bashkiria [Bashkortostan] where prices are much lower. The reason is a lower profit tax (45 percent in Perm Oblast, and 10 percent in Bashkiria). The Legislative Assembly is going, before 1 October, to draw up its own version of draft agreement on delimiting powers and terms of reference between the center and the oblast.

At the same time, the leaders of organizations subordinated to the federation located in the oblast have received the legislators' warning that as of 1 September, their decisions on matters that are under the joint jurisdiction of the federation and the region, will only come into effect after officially coordinating them with the oblast administration. True, unlike Legislative Assembly Chairman Yevgeniy Sapiro, the oblast administration head Boris Kuznetsov has not given agreement to withdraw his signature from the Treaty.

The most telling consequence of the oblast's withdrawal from the Treaty, as far as the center is concerned, may be the region's declaration that it is no longer responsible for collecting federal taxes and sending the money to the federal budget. By yesterday evening, however, Moscow did not react in any way to the Perm legislators' moves.

Weapons Cache Seized at Smolensk Oblast Customs Post

LD2308085394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0750 GMT 23 Aug 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Aug—A large consignment of Western- manufactured weapons, which were being smuggled into the country, has been seized at the Smolensk customs post by the oblast directorate of the Federal Counterintelligence Service in a joint operation with the customs service.

The arms were found in a specially equipped hiding place in a car transporter, which was being driven by a foreigner. The haul included three Uzi machine-pistols with silencers, four Browning pistols, seven silencers for assault rifles and pistols, 3,000 rounds of ammunition, 15 kg of plastic explosive, 44 electronic detonators, 10 devices for triggering explosions by remote control, five all-purpose walkie-talkies, and a night-sight.

The Smolensk Oblast newspaper RABOCHIY PUT says the cache was so well concealed that the truck had already got through three customs checks before being detained by the Smolensk customs.

Tatarstan Prime Minister on Cooperation with LUKoil

MK2308103894 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 9

[Report by Galina Pechelina: "LUKoil's Talks in Kazan. Siberian Oilmen To Help Those of Tatarstan"]

[Text] The critical situation with regard to oil and fuel oil exports in Tatarstan has prompted its government to seek support from large oil companies. On Saturday, Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov held talks in Kazan with representatives of the LUKoil concern about the possibilities of mutually advantageous cooperation.

In an interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY, Mr. Sabirov said that Tatarstan counts on LUKoil to solve a number of matters concerning the sale, storage, and processing of oil and oil products. At present Tatarstan has found itself at an impasse: owing to high customs duties that make oil exports unprofitable, in 1994 the republic has effectively not even started export deliveries under its share in the regional quota (4.5 million tonnes). Oil from the republic has been exported only by the Tatarneft joint-stock company, which has been exempts from customs duties and has a quota of 3.5 million tonnes. As a result, the republican budget, which largely depends on petrodollars, is bursting at the seams. Moreover, due to excessive fuel oil reserves accumulated because of a chronic shortage of tanks and railway traffic problems, the Nizhnekamskneftekhim joint-stock company, which produces 5 million tonnes of fuel oil a year as a byproduct, has once again been threatened with a

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shutdown. An agreement with LUKoil, which has its own government communication lines and tanks for oil storage, could well help solve the problem. Mr. Sabirov pointed out that a precedent for the republic's successful cooperation with a Russian oil company was set in July, when an agreement was reached on the delivery of 50,000-60,000 tonnes of technical oils [tekhnicheskiye masla] to Tatarstan by the LUKoil-Permnefteorgsintez joint-stock company. The contract is considered here as very profitable, because hitherto Tatarstan had to buy oils from various sources at much higher prices.

During the Kazan meeting, LUKoil vice presidents, Ravil Maganov and Vladislav Bazhenov, assessed the proposed areas of cooperation as realistic and suggested that details be discussed together with the company's president, Vagit Alekperov. In addition, LUKoil has displayed interest in the project involving the modernization of Nizhnekamskneftekhim and the construction of an oil refinery with a capacity of 12 million tonnes of oil per year, thus greatly pleasing the prime minister, who said that investment by a large domestic company would be much preferable to foreign investment.

Summing up the results of the meeting, Mr. Sabirov emphasized that the issue is not Tatarstan enterprises' joining the LUKoil company, but close cooperation of the two sides on mutually advantageous terms. It may be based on an agreement on setting up a network of joint ventures between the company and the Tatneftekhiminvest-Holding (an umbrella for the republic's fuel and energy sector and petrochemical enterprises) or on other forms of joint activity. A more specific discussion on the subject will take place one of these days in Moscow.

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International Affairs

Preparations for Joint U.S. Military Exercises

LD2208171994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Lvov—A UNIAN correspondent was informed at the press centre of the Carpathian Military District on 22 August that a group of instructors from the European command will arrive in Lvov this week in accordance with the program of bilateral contacts between the armed forces of Ukraine and the United States. Sixteen U.S. military specialists and 14 pilots will hold exercises with a platoon of paratroops from the Carpathian Military District and will make a joint group parachute jump from an American S-130 [as received] "Hercules" plane.

Appropriate preparatory work is being carried out in the district. A landing place for the airborne assault has been chosen, an operational group of officers from units and services of the district's staff has been set up, and training of the paratroops is being conducted. A subunit of Mi-8 helicopters, from which representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces will make an independent airborne assault, has been brought to full readiness.

In September this platoon of paratroops from the Carpathian Military District will take part in joint U.S.-Ukrainian combat games, which will be held at Fort Bragg (North Carolina).

Ukraine To Participate in NATO Exercises

LD2208201594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Ukraine will take part in the first military exercise within the Partnership for Peace framework, to be held in Poland from 12 to 16 September. The exercise, codenamed Cooperative Bridge-94, will involve 13 NATO countries and partner states, the NATO European Command announced today. The participants plan to practice the actions of subunits during peacekeeping operations.

Economic Ties With Poland To Develop 'Stage by Stage'

AU2308090794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Premiers Hold Negotiations in Lutsk"]

[Text] A working meeting between Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and Poland's Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak took place in Lutsk. The state of relations between Ukraine and Poland and prospects for their development, primarily in the sphere of trade and economic cooperation, were discussed.

In the memorandum and declaration adopted on the occasion, the prime ministers of the two countries stated that Ukrainian-Polish trade and economic cooperation will develop stage by stage, in particular, at the level of enterprises, firms, and private businesses. The development of the system of mutual settlements among entrepreneurs of the two countries, including the opening of branches of banks on their territories, the creation of banks for clearing settlements, as well as the mechanism for the protection of mutual investments, were found to be priority tasks. In this connection, it is necessary to expedite the process of creating a joint Ukrainian-Polish investment and trade bank. The prime ministers discussed important problems in the development of transport and transport shipments to third countries. It was found expedient and mutually advantageous to open railroad connections Kiev-Kovel-Chelm-Warsaw and Kiev-Lvov-Przemysl-Warsaw, to use the wide railroad tracks from the Ukrainian border to Katowice more efficiently, and to improve the operation of border-crossing stations.

According to Vitaliy Masol, Ukraine will supply ore for Poland's metallurgical industry and will receive coal from Poland. During the next year, more than 4 million tons of coal will be delivered [to Ukraine]. Ukrainian specialists in the banking business will be trained in Poland. There is an agreement on a conference of bankers of the two states. Contacts are being established between the law-enforcement bodies of Ukraine and Poland.

At the news conference, Vitaliy Masol and Waldemar Pawlak stressed the fruitfulness of the negotiations.

On the same day, Vitaliy Masol visited the Lutsk maternity home, the "Voltex" Joint Stock Association, and the oblast center's automobile plant, where he spoke to workers and experts.

National Affairs

President Issues Edict on Currency Regulation

LD2308085994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The president of Ukraine has issued an edict on improving currency regulation:

Proceeding from the necessity of creating favorable conditions for the development of foreign economic links, stimulating exports, increasing revenue in freely convertible currency to Ukraine, reducing the volumes of non-critical imports, developing the domestic currency market, and with the aim of establishing a single currency exchange rate for the Ukrainian karbovanets in relation to foreign currencies in accordance with results of trading at Ukraine's interbank currency market:

By means of this edict, Ukraine's National Bank and Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers are charged with ensuring the gradual convergence and unification of the official and market currency exchange rates of the Ukrainian karbovanets in relation to foreign currencies in the

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second half of 1994; with determining and confirming within 10 days the procedure and conditions for the convergence of the official and market currency exchange rates of the Ukrainian karbovanets in relation to foreign currencies and a mechanism for establishing the bounds of the coefficients for divergence of the official currency exchange rate from the market one; with establishing that until a single exchange rate for the Ukrainian karbovanets in relation to foreign currencies is introduced, the procedure for applying the official exchange rate is determined by Ukraine's National Bank in coordination with Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

It is decreed that Ukraine's National Bank with the participation of the Cabinet of Ministers is to elaborate and implement measures with regard to increasing the official currency reserves for the support of a single currency exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets in relation to foreign currencies. With this aim Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is to elaborate and confirm measures with regard to reducing imports. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers is to ensure that talks are held with international financial organizations concerning bringing closer the date for the granting of appropriate financial assistance and credits to Ukraine's Government in 1994. Among other measures, the president's edict restores trading in foreign currency at the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange as from 1 October 1994. The president of Ukraine's edict on improving currency regulation is published in full in the Ukrainian press.

Deputy Interior Ministers Dismissed

AU2308081394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Aug 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Ukraine's Deputy Ministers of Internal Affairs" issued in Kiev on 17 August]

[Text] To dismiss

BARTASHEVYCH, Veniamin Heorhiyovych from the post of Ukraine's deputy minister of internal affairs and chief of the Main Administration for Personnel in connection with his retirement to pension;

NEDRYHAYLO, Valentyn Mykhaylovych from the post of Ukraine's first deputy minister of internal affairs in connection with the assumption by him, on a full-time basis, of the powers and functions of Ukraine's people's deputy. [Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kuchma [Dated] Kiev, 17 August 1994

Kuchma Appoints New Ministers

LD2208192694 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] We have just received several presidential edicts. Serhiy Hryhorovych Osyka has been appointed Ukraine's minister of foreign economic relations. Volodymyr Oleksiyovych Bobrov has been appointed Ukraine's minister of health. The president has appointed Leonid Vasylyovych Borodych as Ukraine's first deputy minister of internal affairs.

Kuchma Rebuffs Ostankino Confederation Idea

WS2208150494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian president has issued the following statement. A group of Ukrainian People's Deputies has addressed the Ukrainian president with a (?motion) in connection with a statement by the Television Company Ostankino regarding the possible establishment of a confederation of four states made up of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. [passage indistinct]

The Ukrainian community knows the position of Leonid Kuchma [word indistinct] who favors independence, [word indistinct], and territorial integrity of Ukraine. He is also against the supranational bodies within the CIS, and he never spoke about the establishment of the above confederation. As for the insinuations regarding these issues, they threaten the civil peace and the unity of all Ukraine's regions that the president is trying to achieve. On the other hand, the writers of this motion should have appealed to the source of this report, that is, to the Television Company Ostankino because it can hardly be regarded as correct to address the president to clarify the situation and refute or confirm facts to which he has no relation at all.

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Belarus

Spokesman: Lukashenka 'Feels Well', Resumes Work

LD2208173694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 22 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No 161 (651): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka "feels well again and resumes work on Monday", the head of the presidential administration Leonid Sinitsyn told Interfax. IF Note: On August 17, 18, and 19 Lukashenka did not come to his office on account of poor health. He was not hospitalized and is getting additional treatment at his residence in Minsk. On Sunday he was absent from the Aviation Day festivities where Belarusian air force pilots should have demonstrated their skills to the president.

According to his staff, on Monday Lukashenka was preoccupied with current matters related to the formation of the new cabinet and presidential administration. On Monday evening the president is to take part in a government conference that should discuss an economic anti-crisis program.

Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Economy Appointed

WS2308081094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The Belarusian president has signed an edict appointing Valeriy Kokarev acting fifth deputy prime minister. As is known, only the post of deputy prime minister for economic issues, one of the most complex and important issues, was vacant in the Belarusian Government. Before the Belarusian Supreme Soviet approves a nominee for this position, it will be occupied by Valeriy Ivanovich Kokarev, who previously was leader of the Belarusnafta Amalgamation.

Further on Top Army Commander Replacements

WS2208131694 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 17 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Vyachaslaw Budkevich: "Change of Army Command"]

[Text] BELAPAN has learned that, according to an edict issued by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, a number of top commanders of the Belarusian Army have been released from their posts. In particular, this applies to the Lieutenant General Mikalay Churkin, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; Lt. Gen. Vasil Dzyamidzik, deputy defense minister; Lt. Gen. Anatol Zuyev, chief of the Armed Forces rear services; and Lt. Gen. Anatol Sikora, deputy defense minister for construction and troops quartering (his promotion by Vyachaslaw Kebich's government a month ago was canceled in accordance with Lukashenka's directive).

In a second edict, Lukashenka replaced these officials with Lt. Gen. Leanid Maltsaw, Major General Aleh Yatskevich, Maj. Gen. Alyaksandr Khrystaforaw, and Colonel Uladzimir Yakhnitski respectively. The first two officers, before their new appointments, held high commands in the military corps deployed in Grodno and Borisov. The last two officers worked directly in the Defense Ministry, and reported to the commanders who were just released. First Deputy Defense Minister Alyaksandr Tushynski was placed at the disposal of the defense minister. By virtue of this, he was actually deprived of his post, which is likely to be cut in the near future.

Defense Minister Announces Changes in Command

WS2308071294 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 16 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the Defense Ministry of Belarus"]

[Text] On Friday, 12 August 1994, Colonel General A. Kastenka, defense minister of the Republic of Belarus, held a working meeting with Armed Forces leaders as well as heads of directorates, services, and departments of the central apparatus.

The defense minister started off by announcing several edicts issued by the president of the Republic of Belarus. These included an edict ratifying the Statute on the Belarusian Defense Ministry, an edict on releasing certain officials from their posts and placing them at the disposal of the defense minister, and an edict establishing the Defense Ministry Collegium and endorsing its staff.

The following people were approved as members of the Defense Ministry Collegium: Col. Gen. Anatol Ivanavich Kastenka, defense minister, head of the Collegium; Viktar Uladzimiravich Sheyman, state secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus; Lieutenant General Leanid Syamyonavich Maltsaw, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, first deputy defense minister; Major General Aleh Viktaravich Yatskevich, deputy defense minister; Lieutenant Mikhail Stanislavavich Stankevich, deputy defense minister for arms, chief of the Armed Forces armament service; Maj. Gen. Alyaksandr Syarheyevich Khrystaforaw, deputy defense minister for rear services, chief of the Armed Forces rear services; Colonel Uladzimir Ramanavich Yakhnitski, deputy defense minister for construction and troops quartering, chief of the construction and quartering services; Lt. Gen. of Aviation Syarhey Vasilyevich Syadow, commander of the Air Forces of the Republic of Belarus; and Lt. Gen. Valeryy

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Uladzimiravich Kastenka, commander of the Air Defense of the Republic of Belarus.

Lt. Gen. M.P. Churkin, Lt. Gen. Dzyamidzik, Lt. Gen. A.A. Zuyev, and Lt. Gen. A.A. Sikora were released from their posts and placed at the disposal of the defense minister of the Republic of Belarus. A.I. Tushynski was also released from his post.

Next, Col. Gen. A. Kastenka introduced to the Collegium members the commanders of corps, divisions, and brigades; chiefs of arms and equipment depots; heads of higher military educational institutions; and oblast enlistment officers.

Participants in the meeting were addressed by the defense minister. He set concrete objectives for the immediate future. The main ones are as follows: to precisely implement the rearrangement of formations and units according to the established schedule; to continue improving the command of the troops; to raise the degree of responsibility of commanders, staffs, and educational structures for maintaining high combat readiness, strengthening military discipline, and advancing the training of personnel; to strengthen educational work in the Armed Forces by reliably forestalling even minor violations of regulations, instructions, and the daily routine; to adopt resolute measures for preserving state and military property; to lay emphasis on rigid economies of money, materials, fuel, and lubricants; to put military towns and residential areas in proper order; to maintain the pace of planting vegetables and potatoes, and to effect all measures connected with preparations for winter in an organized and well-considered manner; to create a healthy moral atmosphere in military and working collectives by showing care for people; to serve the Belarusian people and the fatherland loyally and faithfully, supporting and continuing the glorious battle traditions of our ancestors, and to take pride in military service.

Those taking part in the meeting also discussed other important issues.

Moldova

President Calls For New Education, Language Law

AU2308112594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1940 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 20/8/1994—Yesterday, 19 August, at a teachers' conference in the northern district of Briceni, President Mircea Snegur expressed his opinion on the necessity of adopting the Education Law "which is to be worked out very soon", told BASA sources from the Moldovan Ministry of Education. According to the same sources, the president stressed the idea that the Education Law has to have as its basis the new draft on the development of education, elaborated by the Chisinau Ministry of Education and currently subjected to discussions at the traditional August conferences of Moldovan teachers. President Snegur also stated that "on the whole the draft was assessed as positive". The draft stipulates modernization of the educational system and its rising to world standards. Sources from Briceni told BASA that at the conference President Snegur emphasized the necessity of improving teaching methods. It is expected that these changes would facilitate the learning of Moldova's official language by non-Romanian speakers.

Dniester Supreme Soviet Plans New Banknotes

AU2308081694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1934 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 18/8/1994—Yesterday, 17 August, the Dniester Supreme Soviet decided to introduce into circulation the new Dniester currency. The new currency will be introduced slowly, from August 22 through October 1. During this period, the old rubles with a special stamp on them will also be in usage. The new Dniester currency will be exchanged at a rate of 1 to 100 rubles without limits imposed. New banknotes, called "coupons", of 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and 5,000 rubies, have the portrait of Russian commander Suvorov on one side and the image of the Dniester Supreme Soviet on the other side. According to some sources from Tiraspol, the new banknotes do not have inscriptions or state insignia that would show that the currency belongs to the Moldovan Dniester Republic.

Dniester Authorities Vie for Disputed Village

AU2308110994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1940 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Text] Dubasari/Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 20/8/1994—The Dubasari city authorities loyal to the Tiraspol leadership have intensified their attempts to transfer under their subordination the village of Dorotcaia loyal to Chisinau. A Dorotcaia official told BASA that the Dniester authorities could confiscate an important area of land belonging to the village if the villagers will not be loyal to Tiraspol. Dniester guardians are frequently present near Dorotcaia and Cosnita, two most disputed localities during the 1992 armed hostilities. However, their access to this area of the security zone is forbidden. According to the Snegur-Yeltsin Convention, this region is to be controlled only by the Moldovan and Russian peace-keepers. Moldovan police representatives call the situation "almost explosive" referring to "the permanent provocations of the Dniester formations", however, contested by the latter. Dorotcaia and Cosnita are located on the left bank of the Dniester River, but most villagers want to be under Moldova's jurisdiction.

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Armenia

Outcome of Ter-Petrosyan's U.S. Trip Viewed

MM2308094494 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by correspondent Boris Mkrtchyan: "L. Ter-Petrosyan: 'What Matters Is Peace, Not Who Achieves It!'"]

[Text] Yerevan—The official part of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit to the United States has finished, and some of its political results can be summed up. But first, what prompted this visit, which came as a surprise to many, and why did U.S. President Bill Clinton invite the Armenian president to Washington?

The opinion is current among observers that the White House is worried about the marked strengthening of Russia's position in the Transcaucasus. This includes the stationing of Russian military contingents and bases in Armenia and the Russian peacekeeping forces' mission in Abkhazia. Neighboring Azerbaijan is also on the agenda, since it plays a special role in the plans of Anglo-American oil monopolies and the Turkish General Staff. The aforementioned countries would wish least of all to see Russia as the sole peacekeeping force in Azerbaijan.

The problem of a peaceful solution to the Karabakh conflict was repeatedly touched on by Bill Clinton and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry in their conversations with the guest from Armenia. In reply to Levon Ter-Petrosyan's question on how the U.S. President views the possibility of the use of Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, Clinton said: "It will all depend on exactly what they want.... If clear guarantees are formulated within the CSCE framework that we will have the right to observe this process, the United States will not object." The president of Armenia, for his part, stressed that his country "has an interest in the speediest attainment of peace." "I think," he added, "that what matters most is to establish peace, not the question of who achieves that." As if to clarify this, Ter-Petrosyan stated in a WASHINGTON POST interview that disengagement forces in Nagorno-Karabakh would be made up largely of Russian troops.

In a conversation in the Pentagon, Ter-Petrosyan noted Armenia's interest in joining the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program. He also came out in favor of strengthening Armenian-U.S. cooperation in the defense sphere. As a first step, Secretary Perry intends to send a delegation of top military officials to Armenia. Washington and Yerevan are to exchange military attaches.

Many people in Yerevan today are asking: Will Moscow be angry at the results of Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit to Washington? It is hard to say. Before his trip to the United States the Armenian president made a one-day visit to Moscow, where he met with the Russian foreign minister. What these two politicians discussed between themselves, no one really knows.

Defense Minister on Prospects for Peace

NC2208133894 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0715 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Interview with Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sargisyan by an unidentified ARMENPRES correspondent in Tavushskiy district on 18 August]

[Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 08/18/94—[Correspondent] When, you think, the Great Political Agreement will be signed? There had been several reports, this may become possible in September... [ellipsis as received]

[Sargisyan] To say frankly, I cannot mention concrete terms. The agreement is a too complex document. At our side, we have always been ready to peace, but I can't tell the same thing about Azerbaijan.

[Correspondent] But what can hinder peace today, when Azerbaijan signed the temporary peace agreement together with Armenia and the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh], and by doing so, in fact recognized Mountainous Karabakh?

[Sargisyan] Internal political situation in Azerbaijan hinders. Whoever came to power in Azerbaijan, they promised to end-up with Karabakh within a month. But, as a result, every new person was losing more territories with greater losses. And therefore there is nobody in Azerbaijan, who would agree to take the responsibility and put his signature under such a serious document, as the Great Political Agreement.

[Correspondent] Is there any hope that if not in September, then it may be signed at least by the end of year?

[Sargisyan] I can't tell this. But I can definitely say that military operations will not resume for quite a long time. Azerbaijan understands quite well, that it has to deal with a very strong RMK defense army. To lose something else, to show a regular failure at the fronts - this would be an end for any of the Azeri leaders, including Aliyev. Stretching the negotiations is a political tactic, it's a sort of maneuvering: diplomatic zigzags are less understandable to people then direct war reports... [ellipsis as received]

Communist Party Congress Results Summed Up

NC2208200094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] A news conference was held at the Yerevan Cinema House today summing up the results of the 31st congress of the Communist Party of Armenia [CPA]. Sergey Badalyan, secretary of the party's Central Committee, and members of the bureau of the Central Committee were taking part in it.

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In opening the news conference, the secretary of the Central Committee declared in the name of the 31st congress of the party that CPA has been reinstated as a party and the difficult process of its restoration has been completed. He assessed the phase traversed by the CPA as a period for the restoration of the party. He noted that with this congress the party is entering a new phase of active and open policy. Mr. Badalyan said: The priority task of the communists of Armenia is to henceforth actively participate in the Republic's political life. He noted that the adoption of the party program by the congress was its main accomplishment. Mr. Badalyan continued: The CPA regards the restoration of the socialist foundations of the government and of the society as one of its goals by using the legal and constitutional means and forms of political struggle. As regards the economic sphere, the Communist Party proceeds from the principle that the public ownership of means of production, specially that of land, forms the economic foundation of a society set on the course of socialism. This can be manifest in the form of state, group, collective, and cooperative ownership. At the same time, the communists accept the necessity of diverse forms of socialist economy.

Among the priority problems of the party, the secretary of the Central Committee also touched upon the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and set forth the CPA's position on the known alternative plans for the resolution of the problem.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Ties With Russia, Other Topics

MM2308081794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 94 First Edition pp 1, 6

[Interview with President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan by unidentified ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent under the "In the First Person" rubric; place and date not given: "Everything Will Be Restored. Only Peace Is Needed"]

[Text] In an endeavor to understand how the republic is living today our special correspondents have spoken with all sorts of people. People repeatedly mentioned the Soviet Union, many of them experiencing feelings of nostalgia. Tell me, Geydar Aliyevich, what Azerbaijan nonetheless acquired on the USSR's disintegration. Do you yourself, incidentally, never long for the past?

[Aliyev] Everyone has a longing, some more so than others. I am no exception. This is perfectly natural. Although, of course, the idea of creating a new Union is senseless.

You ask what the republic acquired. The answer is simple: independence. Independence is the wish of every people. In the past we spoke of the collapse of the colonial system and said that the countries of Asia and Africa were finding independence. Some people still believe that the union republics were colonies of Russia. I reject that. It is not true that socialism brought the peoples only misfortunes. The economic, scientific, and intellectual potential that Azerbaijan has was created in the Union.

But the movement for states' independence has now been under way in the world for many years. Why should those republics which united in the USSR in 1922 and later not be given the opportunity to set up on their own? Independence cost us a very high price, but still we found it.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] All new independent states experience difficulties, but each one seeks its own way out. Which path has Azerbaijan chosen for itself?

[Aliyev] Azerbaijan's present situation is not comparable with that of other former union republics. Our country has now been at war for six years. Statistically, there are approximately 7 million refugees in the world, and one-seventh of them—over 1 million people—are in Azerbaijan, on their own land. If other states are experiencing a grave economic crisis in connection with the rupturing of integrational ties and the switch from one sociopolitical and economic system to another, in Azerbaijan the same problems are complicated by the war.

Our chief task today is to emerge from the state of war. For the first time in the six-year conflict there has now been a lengthy, three-month armistice. It was achieved with great difficulty, assistance being provided both by direct contact with Armenia and by mediation on the part of Russia and the Minsk Group of the CSCE. We are now seeking to prepare and sign a major political agreement to end all hostilities. I believe that Armenian armed formations must be withdrawn from the occupied territory of Azerbaijan and that refugees must return to their own places of residence. At the same time time we consider it possible and necessary to examine the question of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh within Azerbaijan.

The Armenian and Azeri peoples lived alongside each other for centuries. There were skirmishes, but then it all passed. If we calculate in terms of time, the periods of conflict will take up 1 percent of the time, while in general we were neighbors in good accord, in mutual understanding, and in friendship. How many mixed marriages there were! This was how things shaped up over the centuries, and I believe that everything will be restored. Only peace is needed.

Now about emerging from the economic crisis. Our path is the path of reforms, of asserting the market principles of economics.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] But there do not yet seem to have been any decisive steps in this direction.

[Aliyev] I was transferred to work in Moscow in December 1982, and I returned in June 1993, 11 years later. During this time the republic's leadership was replaced several times. Therefore there are objective

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reasons for the slowing of the reforms in Azerbaijan. Our next steps will be privatization and the creation of conditions for private enterprise; we are greatly encouraging foreign investments. This is our path.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] How are Azerbaijan's relations with Russia shaping up?

[Aliyev] This is a very important question, and there are complexities here too. Aggression was committed against Azerbaijan in January 1990. It was committed not by Russia but by the communist leadership of the Soviet Union. I was living in Moscow at the time, and I was in isolation. But I knew perfectly well how many military units of the Soviet Army were stationed in Azerbaijan. There were more than enough of them, and there was no need to send in additional forces in order, as Gorbachev said, to instill order.

A huge trauma was inflicted on the people. The people who did not want normal relations between Azerbaijan and Russia and who are now in opposition kept saying the same thing: the Russian Army, the Russian Army. But there was not a Russian Army then, there was the Soviet Army, and in it were serving Russians, Ukrainians, Azeris, Uzbeks, Kazakhs.... Nevertheless, anti-Russian sentiments were kindled. The People's Front, which came to power in March 1992, took an unequivocal stand: Russia is virtually the enemy. Understandably, relations between Russia and Azerbaijan proved cold. Azerbaijan was not a member of the CIS at the time.

I hope that the Russians know that I made a great effort to change public opinion here. For several months, both in parliament and in labor collectives, I spoke of the need for Azerbaijan to be incorporated in the CIS. This finally happened last September. My first official trip as chairman of the Supreme Soviet [Verkhovnyy Sovet], endowed with presidential powers, was precisely to Moscow. I sensed a reciprocal response from Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin. Relations between Azerbaijan and Russia now are good and friendly.

Azerbaijan was part of Russia and the Soviet Union for almost 200 years. Our ties are long-standing and should not be broken off—this is inadmissible. On the contrary, they must be developed. The absolute majority of our major enterprises are integrated in the Russian economy. The same thing in education, science, technology, and culture. As president of Azerbaijan, I am doing and will do everything to strengthen our ties. But there are forces which try to portray our policy in a different light. Certain Moscow newspapers carry articles which are essentially provocative.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The state language in your republic is Azeri. At the same time Russian is used not only by representatives of nonindigenous nationalities; the stratum, so to speak, of Russian-speaking Azeris is huge. People say that if they need to express a simple thought, they express themselves in Azeri, while knowledge no longer suffices for a complex thought—then they "engage" Russian. Not to mention the fact that the best known Azeri writers write in Russian.... Is there not a problem here, in your view?

[Aliyev] Not at all. You know, the national language is an attribute of statehood. Naturally, our state language is Azeri. This is the full extent of its "privilege." It was the People's Front that shut the mouth of anyone who spoke Russian. Although these very people expressed themselves badly in Azeri.

There was, of course, a complex situation, but I believe that I defused it. It is absurd to think that, by making everyone speak one language, you establish this language. Everyone is free to express himself however he deems it necessary. Before sessions people used to ask me which language they should speak, but now they no longer ask—they themselves choose. Those writers who are accustomed to writing in Russian—let them do so. There are more and more Russian-language programs on our television. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense present all papers in Russian. When a foreign delegation comes to me, I speak the language that their interpreter is able to translate.

I am convinced that the Azeri people cannot be isolated from the Russian language. Our republic's multinational composition is the property of the Azerbaijani state's independence. Armenia sought a monostate—and it secured it: Now no one, apart from the Armenians themselves, lives there. I do not consider this an indication of civilized behavior.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] You now represent independent Azerbaijan throughout the world. At the same time you are quite a rare type of leader, who returned to lead the republic a considerable time later. There is, of course, such a thing as diplomatic etiquette. Nevertheless, how, in your opinion, do your partners in talks see you? As a Politburo member who has "changed color"?

[Aliyev] It is hard to say for sure. In those who judge a person mechanically on the basis of his biography and prepared information you sense wariness. But after personal contacts and after familiarizing yourself with my practical activity, I believe that you should not be left with any sense of my having "changed color." I left the Communist Party with the same conviction as I served it. I left it, by the way, when the party was still in power.

When I tendered my resignation from the CPSU in Moscow, they organized here, in this building, a commission to check on all my past activity. Foreign correspondents started telephoning: "How do you react to this?" I replied that all this was ridiculous. In the Communist Party the supreme punishment is expulsion from the party. I expelled myself. I do not know what more could have been done to me.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What are Azerbaijan's foreign policy principles? There are fears in Moscow that

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Central Asia and the Transcaucasus, particularly Azerbaijan, might join the Muslim world and turn away from Russia. Many people are also concerned about the country to which Azerbaijan is drawing closer—Iran or Turkey.

[Aliyev] Our foreign policy principle is well known: We are open to cooperation with all states, primarily neighboring states. Iran and Turkey are Muslim states between which complex relations exist. But Azerbaijan maintains friendly ties with both countries. At the same time the Azeri people, having returned to their age-old Islamic religion, will not embark on the path of fundamentalism. The soil for this does not exist here. Equally, there is no danger that we will turn aside from Russia. We hope that we will have good relations with everyone—with both the East and the West.

Iran Rebuffs Azeri Allegations of Arms to Armenia

LD2208164494 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, Aug 22, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan on Monday warned that legal action would be taken against those Azeri people and media segments who falsely accuse Iran of supplying arms and fuel to Armenia.

"Such rumours are fabricated and circulated by persons who are against the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan," 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian said in an interview on Azeri television.

Referring to a recent meeting in Tehran between the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Azerbaijani President Haydar Aliyev, the ambassador quoted Ayatollah Khamene'i as saying that it was forbidden for a Muslim country to help any non-Muslim country engaged in war with a Muslim state.

Karabakh Front Afghans Being Sent to Chechnya

NC2208193794 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] It has been learned from radio interceptions that three units made up Afghan mojahedeen were removed from the front in Agdamskiy Rayon and sent to Azerbaijan's northern borders on 18 August in accordance with an arrangement made by the Azerbaijani Army command. According to yet unconfirmed reports, from there they will enter Chechnya.

According to the same source, this is not for the first time that Azerbaijan is being used as a base for the transportation of Afghan and other Islamic radicals to various CIS countries, primarily to various regions of Russia.

Political observers in Nagorno-Karabakh believe that Azerbaijan will not spare any effort to destabilize the situation in Russia's border regions inhabited by Muslims, in order to divert Russia's attention from the resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

Press Production Halted Due to Indebtedness

NC2208183694 Baku TURAN in English 1645 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Baku (August 22) TURAN—According to Afig Velimatov, the head of the financial-economic department of "Azerbaijan" publishing house, due to the indebtness of the publishing house for the typographical services totalling 54 million manats some 82

newspapers and magazines have stopped their activities.

"One of the major reasons of the stoppage is the lack of papers, which the publishing house has to buy from the commercial enterprises. The total cost of 1 ton of offset paper is 450-500 dollars of the United States.

He noted that presently there is no any tons of paper in their fund. This fact is due to the means delivered by the government for the purchase of the papers.

"At present some 192 newspapers and magazines are published in the publishing house which demands 150 tons of paper" he added.

More than 600 newspapers and magazines have been registered in the republic by the Information Ministry.

Georgia

'Alarming' Refugee Situation on Abkhaz Border

LD2208173594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the Russian peace-keeping forces in Abkhazia, has described the situation on the Georgian- Abkhazian border as alarming. This is linked to the fact that there has been procrastination in solving the issue of the return of Georgian refugees. The general said that refugees have been holding rallies in Zugdidi rayon adjacent to Abkhazia, where calls have been made to cross the border en masse, something fraught with grave consequences. The peace-keeping forces have so far managed to prevent spontaneous border crossing en masse.

Abkhazia Reacts to Russian Stand on Tatar Treaty

LD2208162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1413 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug (ITAR-TASS)— Abkhazia has reacted to the Russian Foreign Ministry's negative stand on the signing of a treaty between Tatarstan and Abkhazia.

A statement by Abkhazia's Supreme Soviet, which ITAR-TASS received today by fax, says that the Russian

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Foreign Ministry's references to the treaty between Russia and Georgia are groundless, since that treaty "has not been ratified, which means it has no legal force and cannot be applied."

Shevardnadze Weekly Interview

LD2208145994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0600 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Regular weekly interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Last week, Georgia's Interior Minister Shota Kviraia returned from Moscow where, together with other issues, he discussed Abkhazia. You and Defense Minister General Vardiko Nadibaidze met with the leaders of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers and with representatives of the Abkhazian population. At the initiative of the Union of Citizens of Georgia, women staged a rally in front of the headquarters of the Group of Russian Troops in Transcaucasia. A sit-in staged by refugees from Abkhazia continued and it was declared that if the process of their return does not start, the participants in the sit-in will make an unauthorized move to return to their domicile. And it seems to be very symbolic that this action should take place in the village of Rukhi where festivities related to the friendship of the Abkhaz and Georgian peoples used to be held in the past.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you and welcome. About Abkhazia. Our patience is approaching its limits, it is said. The contacts with appropriate offices in Russia which General Vardiko Nadibaidze, General Shota Kviraia, Mr. Jaba Ioseliani [head of the Georgian delegation at quadripartite talks], and Mr. Sandro Kavsadze [Chairman of the Human Rights and Ethnic Relations Committee] have allow us to draw the conclusion that the process is about to move from a standstill. I also have contacts but I will speak about this later, at another public appearance.

Our interview was significantly delayed because I was waiting for the results of Mr. Nadibaidze's telephone conversation with General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russia's first deputy defense minister. It was a good and promising conversation.

First of all, we have to note that the troops already deployed in the conflict zone appeared to be insufficient for the security of the population. It was necessary to deploy additional troops from the inner parts of Russia. Trains [carrying troops] are already on their way and are approaching our border. Their stationing is the main problem and it must be settled within days. We have to keep in mind that we are interested in a safe return of refugees rather than a return in circumstances in which unarmed people will be unprotected. This will lead to the gravest consequences. I think this week will be the most important one—provided, of course— that everything develops as planned and as discussed before, and even this morning when Gen Nadibaidze spoke to his colleagues.

[Oniani] How will events of last week affect the Abkhazian issue? I mean the following events: Vladislav Ardzinba [Abkhazian leader] signs treaties; Abkhazia's relations with the Cossacks, their allies during the war, have deteriorated; Ardzinba sends 200 militants to Chechnya; and in Chechnya itself the situation is so tense that even Ruslan Khasbulatov has appeared on the scene. I would like also to mention the rather harsh reaction expressed by the Russian Foreign Ministry in its statement regarding the Tatarstan-Abkhazia Treaty. [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] On my instructions, Ardzinba's journey was followed by an appropriate reaction of our Foreign Ministry. The Russian Foreign Ministry's reaction, as you have just mentioned, was also timely and appropriate. I would like to express my satisfaction in this connection. Those who read it will see that the Russian leaders have taken an uncompromising stand. And this is a just and unbiased stand. I have been informed that a number of subjects of the Russian Federation have also taken a resolute stand with regard to this event. [passage omitted]

As for processes under way in the north Caucasus, I would say that, sooner or later, commonsense will prevail in political affairs. I believe that this is where the events are heading at this time. I would like to add that Georgia will not be an exception when considering this principle.

[Oniani] The Turkish agriculture minister arrived in Georgia two days ago. He is accompanied by a number of governors and businessmen. During your visit to Turkey, most of the issues of major importance were discussed and prospects planned at the meeting of the ministers of agriculture. This time, you got a newly appointed minister to meet the Turkish delegation. Has it been a regular change or is this the beginning of the renovation of the Cabinet of Ministers?

And yet another question: Will the process of enlarging the ministries continue?

[Shevardnadze] The visit by [Turkish agriculture minister] Mr. Shahin is highly significant for us and generally for Turkish- Georgian relations. [passage omitted]

Our relations with Turkey are currently at the stage when we are able to discuss specific programs and specific deeds. These days have been extremely fruitful. The prospects for many projects have been outlined. During our meeting, Mr. Shahin, whom I have known long and deeply respect, spoke a lot about the importance of stability in Georgia. He said the shift is noticeable and, therefore, [Turkish] state bodies as well as businessmen demonstrated an aspiration to develop relations with Georgia. I want to reiterate my satisfaction with the fact

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that the delegation includes governors of regions adjacent to Georgia. Anything not resolved at a governmental level, will be settled through contacts with these governors.

As for the enlargement of ministries and, as many demand, an immediate reorganization of the Cabinet of Ministers, this will be done in a systematic way in accordance with our readiness and as needed.

[Oniani] We know that an extraordinary session of the Georgian parliament failed due to the lack of a quorum. It was decided on that day to hold consultations between yourself and the parties and factions. The consultations begin tomorrow. What do you expect from this? How important and essential do you consider these meetings during the parliamentary recess?

[Shevardnadze] I consider these consultations as very important and serious. Meetings will be held without an agenda. We will be speaking about all spheres of our life including the issues of improving the work of parliament, building our statehood, drafting the Constitution, fundamental issues of the country's internal and foreign policy and, by all means, the Abkhazian problems, problems of Samachablo [South Osetia], and others.

In this connection, I appeal to all to spare no efforts to establish constructive cooperation aimed at saving the country.

I cannot excuse the behavior of a leader of one of the parties, who goes from house to house and calls through a megaphone for active measures against the authorities.

[Oniani] Sorry to interrupt you but if you mean the Social- Democratic Party, there seems to be an interesting coincidence. There are many actions by supporters of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of emergency—the 1991 Moscow coup leaders] in Moscow related to the anniversary of the coup. They call for strikes, claiming that strikes rather than good work is necessary to make the government resign. They call for the revival of the Soviet Union, too, as Lukyanov said recently. In light of this, the activities of the Georgian Social-Democrats can be understood as an interesting phenomenon.

[Shevardnadze] You are right. These activities have much in common. I find it very significant that the population reacts to this negatively and protests. [passage omitted]

I would like to tell public figures of this kind: Gentlemen, look in a mirror—and if you have no mirror, look in a puddle—and take a look at yourselves. What do you look like as citizens of the country and as politicians as well, while calling for new disturbances in the country in times of hardship and when the country moves toward stability little by little. This is not the best way to settle relations between political parties. That is why we decided to hold consultations and meetings. That is what parliament exists for.

[Oniani] And, finally, one of the most acute questions. Interior Minister Shota Kviraia gave a news conference last week. He said that the first stage of the fight against crime has ended and the second stage is starting with the principal aim of fighting against the mafia. You have repeatedly spoken on this issue at various levels, including your radio interviews. How is it possible to fight against the mafia at a time when the mafia has found its way into the highest echelons of power? Despite the fact that signs of stability really can be seen, racketeering has become a normal phenomenon in Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] I have mentioned shifts for the better within the Interior Ministry. However, it must be remembered that this is only the beginning. It was my request and my instruction to start activities and talk about the second stage of the fight. Among all the problems facing the law enforcement agencies and the entire population, I would point out the need to start a decisive fight against racketeering and the mafia gangs. Racketeers and mafia gangs are the main obstacles to the development of the new economy. Racketeering eliminates business in the bud. Racketeers and mafia gangs are responsible for many brutal murders, savage actions, kidnappings, and so on.

Racketeers and the mafiosi suppress the economy more than the present energy crisis. They enslave human beings and mock them, humiliate them. I approved a new structure in the Security Service yesterday. We have created a strong and well-equipped unit to fight against economic sabotage and corruption. The prosecutor's offices have become more active, to say nothing of the Interior Ministry. Now, the entire state and the entire population have to rise in order to eliminate this dreadful disease. It will be too late in a few years' time. It will be too late when the disease becomes a tradition. There are examples and the experience of many other countries—I am not going to name the countries. Some highly developed countries have been fighting the mafioso and the racketeers for decades but are not able to succeed because they failed to eliminate it in the very beginning. [passage omitted]

There are some people who have joined the criminal world by mistake or by accident. Many of them fought with arms for the interests of the country. Many of them were wounded. Some have been pushed into this way of life by hardships. I am addressing them: This sort of activity has no future. [passage omitted]

There must be an uncompromising fight and a deadly fight because this is what the country needs today. We will spare no one within the state structure who assists the criminal world. [passage omitted] No one will receive mercy, whatever his position, if he is related to the activities of the mafia structures. We will, indeed, act within the frame of law and justice.

I elaborated on this issue because economic reforms gain new meaning today. Kutaisi's Mayor Temur Shashiashvili telephoned me last night and told me what has been

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done in his city to strengthen the coupon. An interesting discussion is beginning in Kutaisi on this subject with the participation of acadmemics and scientists. Other regions have also started positive activities in this respect. Shortly, we shall offer the population new measures to bring order to the sphere of monetary circulation, to strengthen the national currency, and to establish a basis for the transition to a real national currency—the lari. This will be a difficult but unavoidable stage. [passage omitted]

The dollar and the ruble will also have their own value. Do not think that there will be only the coupon and if I have a dollar or a ruble, I will not be able to use them. Currency changing offices should work, ideally, and we already have good experience in this sphere.

We have to create the proper relations between prices and salaries. All this and many other ideas regarding the improvement of the country's economy, finances, and further stabilization will remain just words if we fail to curb racketeering and to eliminate mafioso structures. This is how I would like to end today's interview.

[Oniani] Thank you.

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Estonia

Meri Signs Estonian-Language Text of Agreements

WS2308093694 Tallinn BNS in English 1711 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 22, BNS—The Estonian President Lennart Meri has signed the Estonian-language texts of the agreements signed on July 26 in Moscow, the Foreign Ministry press service informed BNS. The press service said the Estonian texts signed by Meri were today sent to Moscow for president Boris Yeltsin to sign them.

Meri and Yeltsin on July 26 signed international agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops and on the protection of the social rights of the Russian military pensioners and their family members in Estonia. Although the accords include a clause prescribing them to be signed both in Estonian and in Russian, only Russian-language copies were signed on July 26.

According to the said agreements the Russian military pensioners, their family members, and persons receiving sustenance support from the sums designated for the military pension of a deceased family member, will receive Estonian residence permits, while Russia pledges to withdraw its troops from Estonia by Aug. 31. The Estonian Government retains the right to deny residence to persons considered to pose a security hazard.

The Russian Government will pay pensions to its army pensioners, their citizenship notwithstanding, according to the norms prescribed by Russian laws. The pensions must exceed the minimum pension in Estonia.

The Russian army pensioners and their families retain the right freely to own, use, and dispose of, their property, including living houses, flats, summer cottages, garages, etc., according to Estonian laws and on equal grounds with Estonian citizens.

The Russian military pensioners are guaranteed the right to use their living quarters, no matter to what institution it belongs, and also to privatize it. The pensioners' years spent in the army service will be accounted on the national capital bonds.

President Lennart Meri has stressed that though the agreements are not fabulous, they are still very good. Member of the Estonian Assebly Party and the Estonian Academy of Sciences Endel Lippmaa, however, is of the opinion that the same accords are extremely harmful to Estonia. Yesterday, 15 Estonian parties and organisations moved to denunciate them.

The Estonian Government will evaluate the agreements after the Justice Ministry experts have presented their survey.

Parties Urge Parliament To Denounce Russian Agreements

WS2208141594 Tallinn BNS in English 0909 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 22, BNS—A conference on Aug. 21 of 15 Estonian parties and coalitions moved that the Estonian parliament denounce the July 26 agreements with Russia.

The document forwarded to BNS calls on Estonians to organise extensive and forcible protest activities against the accords. Citizens are invited to protest in front of the Toompea castle in Tallinn, the site of the Estonian Government, if the government decided to send the agreements to the parliament for ratification.

The document is signed by representatives of the national coalition Better Estonia, the National Progressive Party, the Rebirth Party, the organisation Estonian Home, the Farmers' League, the National Party, the Decolonization Initiative Center, the Nationalists' Central League, the Central Party, the Citizens' League, the Coalition Party, the Rightists parliamentary faction, the Rightful Citizens League, the Entrepreneurs' Party, and the Rightful Owners' League.

A meeting was held on Aug. 21 in the Tallinn Scientific School to introduce the viewpoints expressed at the conference.

Leader of the Citizens' League Juri Toomepuu claimed at the meeting that the agreements signed July 26 mean "unconditional capitulation" on the Estonian side, "since they are written only in Russian".

"Whereas the accords signed in 1939 meant Estonia's loss of independence for quite a long time, the July 26, 1994 agreements might signal the beginning of the extermination of the Estonian people," deputy chairman of the Rightists' faction Enn Tarto said in his speech.

The Estonian President Lennart Meri and the Russian President Boris Yeltsin on July 26 in Moscow signed international agreements on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia and on the protection of the social rights of the Russian military pensioners and their family members living in Estonia.

The agreements rule that the military pensioners, their family members, and persons receiving sustenance support from the sums designated for the military pension of a deceased family member, will be granted residence permits in Estonia, while Russia pledges to pull its troops out of Estonia by Aug. 31. The Estonian Government, however, retains the right to deny residence permits to persons considered a security hazard.

Bill To Annul Agreements Submitted

WS2208144594 Tallinn BNS in English 1225 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 22, BNS—Member of the Estonian parliament Juri Toomepuu today introduced to the

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parliament a bill based on the Estonian parliament's standing order paragraph eight, to annul Estonia's July 26 agreements with Russia.

Toomepuu claims in an explanatory letter added to the bill that President Lennart Meri's signature on the agreements is illegal because according to Prime Minister Mart Laar the Estonian Government had not prepared or confirmed the agreements as prescribed by the international law.

Toomepuu also presented an inquiry to legal chancellor Erik-Juhan Truuvali, asking if the procedure of Meri's signing Russian-language agreement texts was in accordance with international communication laws and laws valid in Estonia.

Toomepuu proceeds to ask when and on what paragraphs the chancellor will hold President Meri responsible, if the signing is found illegal. Toomepuu has also protested Meri and Yeltsin's signing only Russian-language copies of the agreement text.

These accords mean Estonia's "unconditional capitulation, because they are only compiled in Russian," he claimed at a meeting yesterday.

Presidents Lennart Meri and Boris Yeltsin on July 26 in Moscow signed agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and on the protection of the social rights of Russian military pensioners and their family members living in Estonia.

The agreement rules that the military pensioners, their family members, and persons receiving sustenance support from the sums designated for the military pension of a deceased family member, will be granted residence permits in Estonia, while Russia pledges to pull its troops out of Estonia by Aug. 31. The Estonian Government, however, retains the right to deny residence permits to persons whose presence in the country is considered a security hazard.

Latvia

Premier Comments on U.S. Support for Dismantling Skrunda

WS2208144294 Riga DIENA in Latvian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Juris Tihonovs: "Agreements Signed on U.S. Financial Support for Dismantling Skrunda Radar Station"]

[Excerpt] Riga, 12 Aug—[passage omitted] Commenting on the agreements concluded to dismantle part of the Skrunda radar station, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs said that they represent one phase of the work connected with the Russian troop withdrawal. In his opinion, this marks the very beginning of the process of removing the consequences of the Russian Army's presence in Latvia. He also expressed his satisfaction with the recent visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton, which promoted the conclusion of the agreements and helped to increase the sum allotted toward this goal. Birkavs expressed the hope that in the next 18 months of intensive Latvian-U.S. cooperation, the Skrunda radar station would be dismantled. The Prime Minister also announced that on 30 August Latvia will also receive part of the financial support for dismantling the radar station that was promised by Sweden.

U.S. Ambassador in Latvia I. Silins stated that his country is eager to dismantle the Skrunda radar station as soon as possible. The ambassador said that the United States is already planning to next week begin publishing announcements inviting entrepreneurs to present proposals for carrying out the project.

To this, Birkavs added that Latvian companies will be also permitted to participate in the project. According to him, Latvian workers can be hired for the actual dismantling jobs. He also promised to invite Latvian musicians, after the dismantling is complete, to organize a rock concert on the spot where the former radar station stood. The prime minister expressed his concern that the $7 million [pledged by the United States] would may prove insufficient. The ambassador replied that to him it seemed to be a large enough sum and ought to serve the purpose.

Former OMON Members To Be Charged

LD2208020094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2253 GMT 21 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Riga, 22 Aug—The Latvian prosecutor's office is about to bring charges against former members of Riga's special purpose militia detachment [OMON]. This was announced in the evening TV news by the prosecutor's office special investigator Aleksejs Lepse. He said rank-and-file members were to stand trial because all hopes of ensuring the extradition from Russia of the detachment commander Cheslav Mlynnik have now been abandoned. He was arrested by St. Petersburg militia and is now being held in Kresty [in St. Petersburg]. Some of his former subordinates are living in Riga. The lawyer believes that others, who have left the Baltic state, are not afraid of a trial because they want to return to Latvia.

The Riga special purpose militia detachment of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry was set up in 1988 to combat organized crime. On 19 August it was temporarily placed under the command of the Defense Ministry. In those August days the "black berets" occupied the buildings of the radio committee, the Riga militia directorate, and other facilities. At the end of that month the detachment left Latvia. Many members had relatives still living there.

The detachment was then stationed in Tyumen Oblast. There deputy Commander Sergey Parfenov was arrested; he was subsequently indicted in Latvia and returned to Russia shortly before serving his sentence.

Before their departure from Latvia, the members of the detachment issued an address to its people, saying they had been "drawn into the games played by the politicians" and in the end had been "guilty of carrying out the orders of their superiors."

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